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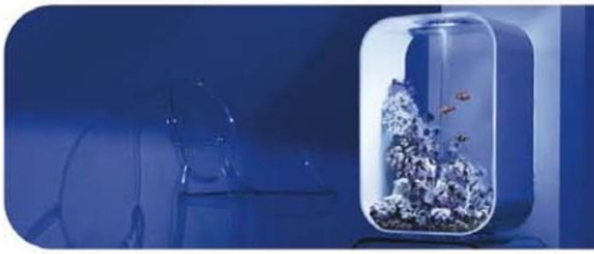

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3 REASONS
TO TAKE A TRIP TO CHESTER

1 SHOP at Chattels. If you're searching for innovative interiors then look no further than Chattels on City Road. Offering an extensive and eclectic mix of contemporary furniture and accessories this store is guaranteed to inspire. Look out for modern-day classics, plus a whole host of designer names from Kartell and Knoll to B&B Italia and Foscarini. Collections are continually being added to so there is always something new in store – we love their Guseppina chairs, recently launched in Milan.
42 City Road, Chester CH1 3AE.
Visit: www.chattels-designerfurniture.co.uk
or tel. 01244 322280

2 VISIT the Watergate Street Gallery. As the name suggests you will find this gem of a gallery in Watergate Street. Having opened its doors in 1992 with the aim of bringing fresh, new, yet affordable art to the public, this independent gallery is a treasure trove of collectable artists and currently has over a hundred on display. The perfect place to pick up an original artwork or signed limited edition, do remember to check out the monthly exhibitions (see Stop Press), which are held in the gallery's historical cavern.
60 Watergate Street, Chester CH1 2LA.
Visit: www.watergatestreetgallery.co.uk or tel. 01244 345698

3 RELAX at The Chester Grosvenor and Spa. Dating back to 1865, The Chester Grosvenor is located in the heart of this historic city and is one of the finest hotels in the North West. The design-led five red star property features 80 individually styled rooms and suites, however for those not looking to check-in, you can still check out the hotel's various delights and glamorous interior – take time out to relax at the spa, dine in style at the award-winning 'La Brasserie' or treat yourself to a Michelin-starred meal at the renowned 'Simon Radley' restaurant.
Eastgate, Chester CH1 1LT.
Visit: www.chestergrosvenor.com or tel. 01244 324024

WELCOME TO OUR NOVEMBER ISSUE

Photo Sussie Bell

Well autumn is definitely here and judging by the array of colourful coats and jumpers to be found lying around our office colour is going to be big news in the fashion and interiors' world this season. A fact echoed by *CFL* stylist, Katie, who recently travelled to London to check out the latest interior collections at Decorex and 100% Design. A mecca for leading designers and new talent looking to showcase their work, this year's shows proved to be the best yet – turn to page 74 to discover the hottest finds and our pick of the newest names to look out for in the coming months.

Talking of the months to come, it may be getting colder but I have to admit that autumn is one of my favourite times of the year – any excuse to spend time at home relaxing in front of a roaring fire. In fact, the onset of chilly nights and wet days sends most of us indoors, where we inevitably feel the need to make our homes warm and welcoming. Sadly, this can also mean noticing everything that still needs doing around the house! For me this means dealing with an ever-expanding mountain of clutter that seems to finds its way into each and every room of my home. I am actually fanatical about keeping things tidy but it is an art lost on my daughter who seems happy to store everything on the floor! However this year I am determined to eradicate the clutter once and for all and to this end *CFL* has come up with a 10-page storage special (page 60) featuring 46 solutions, which will solve all my (or should I say my daughter's) problems.

If all this sounds too much like hard work, you can always simply sit back, relax and check out our inspirational reader's homes from around the regions, learn all about the fascinating art of traditional tile making (page 99) or why not treat yourself to some new dining furniture (page 84) ready for Christmas entertaining – yes there really is only a month to go!

Hope you enjoy this issue

Paula

Paula Woods, Acting Editor

STOP PRESS... ...THE GODFATHER OF BRITISH POP ART, PETER BLAKE, IS EXHIBITING AT THE WATERGATE STREET GALLERY, CHESTER, UNTIL THE END OF OCTOBER. SO HURRY AND CHECK OUT THE ARTIST BEHIND THE FAMOUS SERGEANT PEPPER'S LONELY HEARTS CLUB BAND RECORD SLEEVE!

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RETAIL THERAPY

Shop until you drop this winter as we bring you the perfect home interior solutions straight from the best designers. Whether you're looking to create a feature wall or searching for the perfect furniture piece, you're sure to find something here.

RIGHT
The autumn/winter range from Heal's includes a natural palette of taupes with splashes of colour. As pictured neutral colours are lifted with lime greens through accessories. The 'Ambrose' chunky grey sofa is priced at £1,795. **Tel. 08700 240 780 or visit: www.heals.co.uk**

BELOW RIGHT
New to Boffi Kitchens is the 'On/Off' kitchen collection from Alberto Colonello. Perfect for the stylish home this minimalist, sleek design has electronic doors, which can be opened by a remote or touch sensor. Available in a variety of colours and finishes the kitchen can be completed using taller modular units. Prices on application. **Tel. 020 7590 8910 or visit: www.boffi-chelsea.com**

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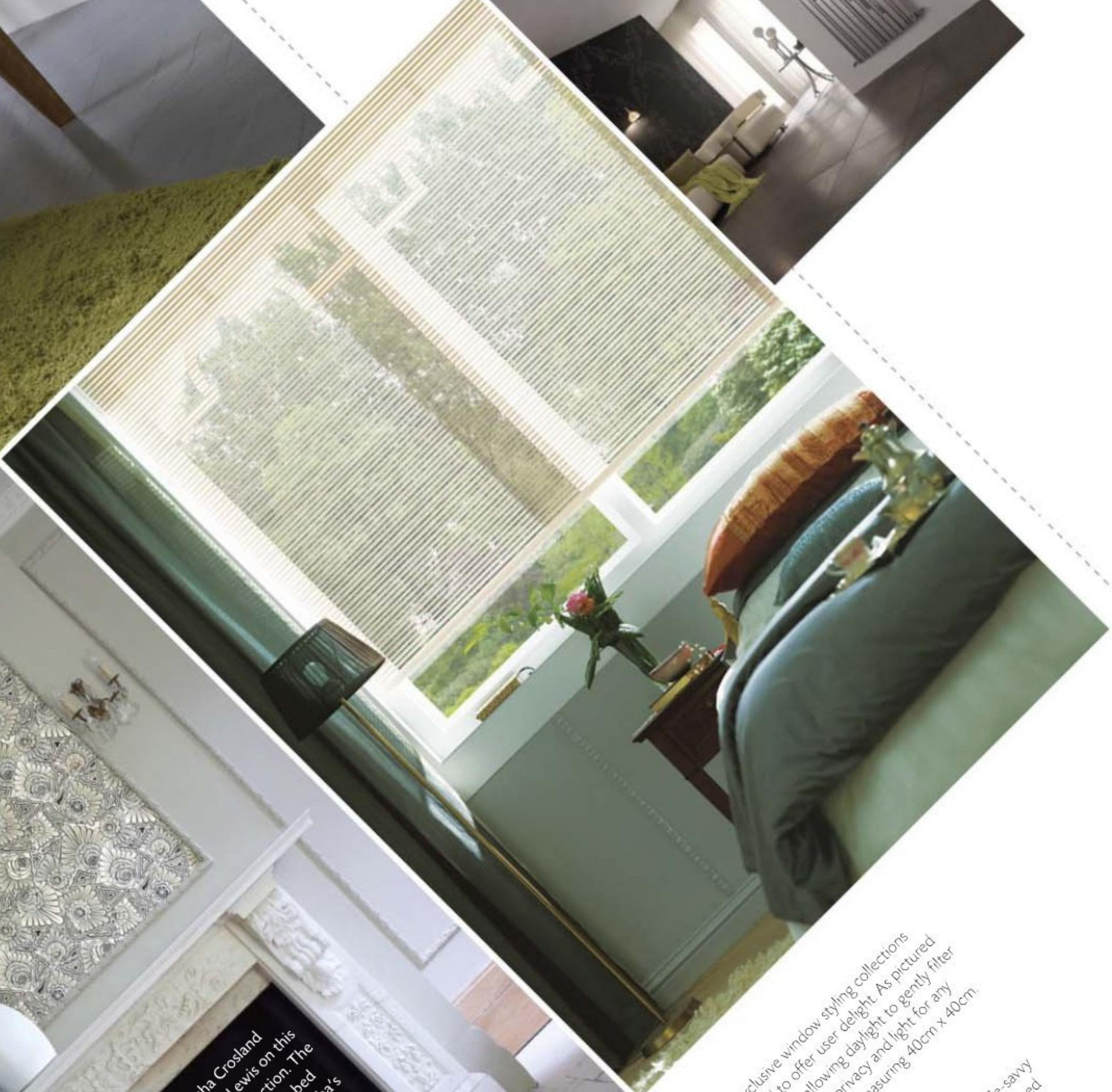


Renowned designer Neisha Crosland has collaborated with John Lewis on this autumn's soft furnishings collection. The range includes fabrics, wallpapers, bed linen and cushions. As pictured, Neisha's new wallpaper is priced at £30 per roll. **Tel. 08456 049 049 or visit: www.johnlewis.com**

ABOVE RIGHT
Luxaflex offers a range of innovative and exclusive window styling collections that are distinctly unique, stylish and designed to offer user delight. As pictured 'Facette' shades create a subtle lighting effect by allowing daylight to gently filter through your home. Choose the perfect balance of privacy and light for any moment in the day. Prices start from £57 for a shade measuring 40cm x 40cm.
Tel. 0800 652 7799 or visit: www.luxaflex.co.uk

ABOVE FAR RIGHT
'Stradivari' from Aestus is the current chic heating option for the style-savvy homeowner. Designed with a stainless steel exterior the radiator is finished in satin. The stylish centrepiece can be hung vertically or horizontally and is available in a choice of three sizes. Prices start from £6,334.
Tel. 01902 387 080 or visit: www.aestus-radiators.com

RIGHT

'Nora' from Sandberg, distributed by Little Greene is an eclectic collection of wallpapers. Inspiration has been taken from around the globe, paying homage to a mix of sources. 'Nora' encompasses vibrant designs such as a horse motif, a coiled floral and lots more. The palette includes pearls, taupes and soft pinks, enhanced by flashes of moody indigo, bordeaux and olive, as well as a graphic black and white combination. Prices start from £41 per roll.
Tel. 0845 880 5855 or visit: www.sandbergab.se/en

RIGHT

'Leaf' is part of the new shimmering wallpaper collection from Jocelyn Warner. Taken from a soft climbing branch the classic repeat pattern in colours of black and gold takes the leaf into a magical world of shimmering gold. Priced at £99 per roll.
Tel. 020 7375 3754 or visit: www.jocelynwarner.com

Bring warmth and bold colour to your living space with 'Mirage Crimson' from Rasmus Design, a thick pile rug with a luxuriously soft, wool-like feel. The 'Mirage' range is colour fast, hardwearing and is available in a selection of sizes and colours, including Latte, Linen and Graphite. Priced at £57.
Tel. 01423 560 050 or visit: www.rasmusdesign.co.uk

LEFT
Woven Ground has launched a new collection of original rug designs for winter. Featuring exotic patterns inspired by oriental flowers and prints, the cotton rugs are available in three sizes and start from £235. All rugs are made with hand-carved surface detail and the colour options are endless.
Visit: www.wovenground.com

ABOVE
A newcomer to Kartell's latest collection, the 'Frilly' chair is available to purchase online from Arredo. Made from durable polycarbonate in a variety of funky colour options it can be used both indoor and out for the perfect contemporary accessory. Prices start from £131.
Tel. 0845 459 2164 or visit: www.arredo.co.uk

ABOVE RIGHT
The latest lighting solutions from Lutron include a stylish range of contemporary dimmers offering slide function options and infra-red, along with a selection of table lamps. With so much on offer why not take a look online and transform any room in your home in an instant. Prices start from £22.50.
Tel. 020 7702 0657 or visit: www.lutron.com/europe

BELOW
Graham & Brown launches 'Essence' inspired by a mood board of the latest interior trends. Designs feature delicate florals and bold stripes in a palette of crimsons, charcoals, duck eggs and creams highlighted in metallic accents. As featured, 'Alium' is available in four colourways and reflects the current trend for bold florals. Prices start from £30 per roll.
Tel. 0800 328 8452 or visit: www.grahambrown.com

ABOVE
New from Montgomery Tomlinson's autumn/winter range is 'Florette'. A stunningly sumptuous collection of fabrics featuring elegant floral motifs ranging from finely embroidered taffeta to keynote cut velvet designs. Colours include deep aubergine, soft plum and a splash of zesty lime, which would be perfect in both the contemporary and classic interior. Prices start from £34.99 per metre.
Tel. 01244 661 363 or visit: www.montgomery.co.uk

ABOVE LEFT
For the ultimate in luxury showering look no further than Matki's 'EauZone Plus' collection of wet room options with easy installation. As pictured, the luxury twin glass doors and panels are accessorised with Matki's stylish shower trays. Create the perfect wet room finish with options to suit all spaces. **Tel. 01454 322 888 or visit: www.matki.co.uk**

ABOVE
Designer Deirdre Dyson has launched her 'Butterfly Rug' collection. Part of her new designs for 2010, inspiration has been drawn from the exotic colours found in butterflies worldwide. Consisting of seven designs the range is bold and vibrant and includes over 50 designs. Prices start from £575 per sq m. **Tel. 020 7384 4464 or visit: www.deirdredyson.com**

Arthouse introduces 'Decadence', a collection of four designs that offer a bespoke feel from just £20 a roll. As pictured, 'Radiance' in chocolate is a distinctive, elegant metallic wallpaper and with its blossom motif the design is perfect for living areas and bedrooms when looking to create a timeless feel. **Tel. 01706 239 600 or visit: www.arthouse.com**

ABOVE FAR LEFT
Forbo's latest 'Novilon' cushion vinyl flooring collection provides rooms with a new lease of life without the need for a major make-over. Metallic and earth tones are a main feature, ideal for use in living rooms. The flooring is extremely tough and durable, providing excellent protection against spillages and scuff-marks, making it perfect for family homes. Prices start from £19.99 per sq m. **Visit: www.forbo-flooring.co.uk**

ABOVE LEFT
The new 'King and Country' range from Fun On The Floor, features the 'Kinsmead' wool carpet in deep aubergine. Priced from £17.99 per sq m this stylish on-trend quirky carpet is ideal for bringing warmth and texture into your home. **Visit: www.funonthefloor.com**

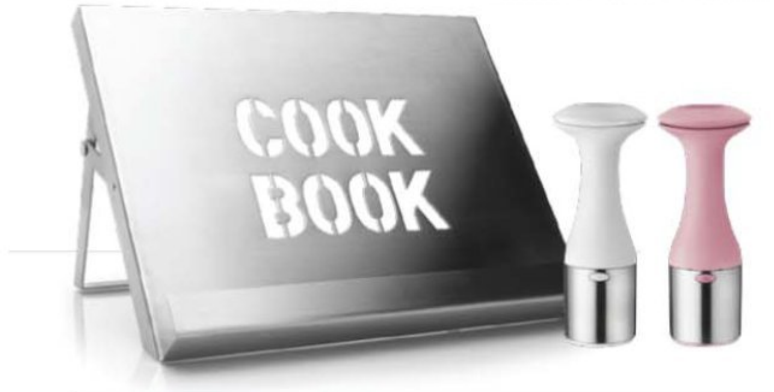
DESIGN NEWS

OKA OPENS IN HARROGATE >>>

This year Oka, the leading furniture and interiors retailer, is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Established in 1999 by Annabel Astor, Sue Jones and Lucinda Waterhouse as an interiors mail order catalogue, the company now has 12 stores across the UK and has just opened its latest shop in upmarket Harrogate. Packed with their largest home collection to date, plus inspirational roomsets, you will find the new store at 8 West Park, Harrogate. **Tel: 01423 701161 or visit: www.okadirect.com.**

PAMPER YOURSELF IN CHESTER

After a busy month bringing you all the latest in designer style, the team here at *CFL* love nothing more than a relaxing pampering session, so you can imagine our delight when we discovered that our favourite online organic beauty company, BeautyOk, was opening a shop right here on our doorstep, in Chester. Run by Michelle Graham the founder of BeautyOk, the shop, just like the website, stocks a vast array of naturally stylish and exclusive lotions, potions and candles which are must-have accessories for any design-savvy bathroom. Find BeautyOK in partnership with Urban Fitness at 30-32 Charles Street, Hoole, Chester. **Tel. 01244 351368 or visit www.beautyok.co.uk.**

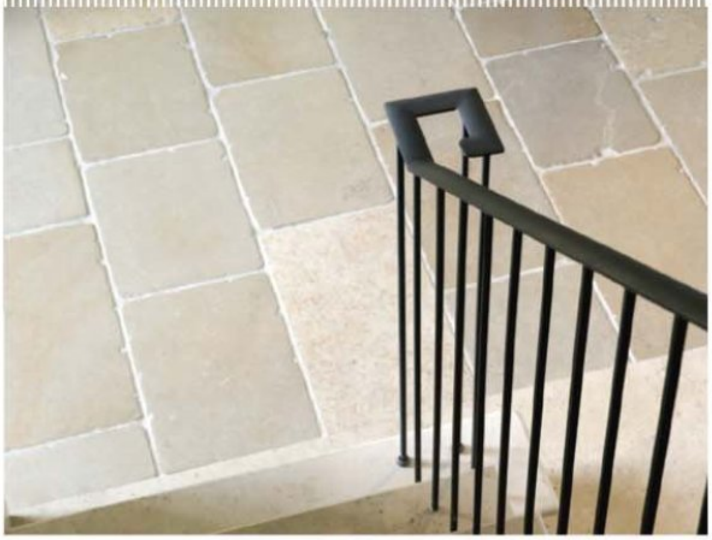


RECIPE FOR SUCCESS IN SHROPSHIRE

Specialist cook shop Cooking Marvellous is a must-visit destination for all budding and serious chefs in and around Shrewsbury. However if you cannot make it to the store don't worry as owner, Joan Themans, has now set up a successful online shop. Check it out for the latest fun as well as practical cooking accessories and gadgets, plus some great recipe ideas.
Visit: www.cookingmarvellous.co.uk or tel. 01743 719103.

Lapicida celebrates 25 years

Yorkshire's very own Lapicida is 25 years old this year. Based in Knaresborough, Lapicida is the UK's leading stone supplier and is celebrating by launching a new look website and the stunning 'Argento' collection – a hand-selected range of highly popular Grade A quality stone combining desirability with durability. To mark the silver anniversary, the entire 'Argento' range is currently available at an exclusive 25% discount until 25th October. **For more information or to view the collection tel. 01423 400 100 or visit: www.lapicida.com.**



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DESIGN **NEWS**

Boutique chic

CFL favourite Black Orchid Interiors has introduced a collection of unique one-off hand painted mannequins to their range. Guaranteed to add a glamorous touch to any bedroom or dressing room, each mannequin is a faithful replica of an original 19th century model and is adorned with images inspired by well-known artists. Our favourite is this stunning Gustav Klimt inspired design, priced £629.10. **Buy online at www.blackorchidinteriors.co.uk.**

WALL TO WALL STYLE >>>

Those expert interior designers at lifestyle gallery Evitavonni have done it again with their latest range of bright and bold wallcoverings from Crinson. The striking new collection includes luxury wallpapers in charcoal grey, pink and acid yellow alongside a stunning selection of tiles featuring deep red, turquoise and multi-coloured collage designs. We love these colourful mosaic tiles priced from £336 per sqm.
Tel. 0800 130 3180 or visit: www.evitavonni.co.uk.

ANGLEPOISE® 75TH ANNIVERSARY

To celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the first ever 1227 Anglepoise® lamp, this iconic light is being re-issued. Made from aluminium with a cast iron base, it is available in four colours: red, black, blue and ivory and in the spirit of our times is now supplied with an energy saving light bulb. The Original 1227 lamp by Anglepoise costs £127.23.
Tel. 02392 224450 or visit: www.anglepoise.com.

Eco-chic wall coverings

The latest wall coverings from House Couturier are guaranteed to add glamour and texture to your walls. Backed with recycled paper the collection is fashioned from natural plant fibres, many of which are harvested annually making them renewable and often biodegradable. We fell in love with the covetable 'Glam Grass 'collection where hand woven texture meets chic metallic thanks to filaments woven horizontally throughout the hemp for an unexpected pop of shimmer. Available in 22 colours, 'Glam Grass' costs £54 per linear metre.
Buy online at www.housecouturier.eu or tel. 020 7371 9255.

KATHARINE POOLEY GOES ONLINE

Interior design aficionados in the South have long been fans of Katharine Pooley's exclusive boutique in London. Now all fans of her eclectic global style can get in on the act by browsing her brand new website – the perfect place to discover those one-off luxury pieces that just cannot be found anywhere else. **Visit: www.katharinepooley.com or tel. 020 7584 3223.**

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Shower specialists, Roman, have introduced Roman At Home a luxurious and eclectic collection of bathroom accessories, home products and everyday indulgences designed to instantly transform any bathroom into a tranquil spa-like sanctuary. Indulge in a little me-time with their comprehensive grooming collection, wrap yourself in sumptuously soft bathroom linen and complete your retreat with contemporary bathroom accessories that add glamour and style to practical products. **Visit: www.romanathome.com, tel. 08450 525 125 or email: brochures@roman-showers.com to request a brochure.**

WIN A GIFT SET WORTH £28

To celebrate the launch of Roman At Home, Roman is offering two lucky *CFL* readers the chance to win a luxurious Tropical Breeze gift set. This youthful and fruity tropical gift pack features grapefruit essence, perfect for hydrating thirsty skin and exfoliating, whilst a hint of just ripened papaya adds a deliciously fruity flavour. Each set includes shower gel, bubble bath, body lotion, wooden cellulite massager, bath salts and exfoliating scrunchie, presented in a stylish wooden bowl.

HOW TO ENTER

To enter simply answer the following question: **What is the retail price for the Tropical Breeze Gift?**

A £8 **B** £18 **C** £28

Email your answer to competitions@conceptforliving.co.uk with 'Roman At Home' in the subject box and state you name, address, email address and daytime telephone number. Or, post your entry to: Roman At Home Competition, *Concept For Living*, The Old School, Higher Kinnerton, Chester, CH4 9AJ.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Full terms and conditions apply. The prize is subject to availability, non transferable and there is no cash alternative. Closing date for all entries is midnight 17 November 2009. **All entrants will receive a complimentary copy of the new Roman At Home brochure. If you do not wish to receive a copy please indicate this on your entry form.**

FISHY TALES IN WREXHAM...

...If like us at *Concept For Living* you are an avid viewer of *Grand Designs* then you may have noticed the odd oversized fish tank creeping into one or two of those uber-chic interiors. Often seamlessly integrated within a wall to create a stunning living artwork, these ever-changing installations have now come to North Wales thanks to The Green Machine. A bespoke company specialising in using sculpture, live plants and fish to create ever-changing, unique, natural and beautiful works of art.

Tel. 01978 265 090 or visit: www.thegreenmachineaquatics.com for more information.

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HOMES

CONCEPT FOR LIVING'S PICK OF THE BEST HOMES AND GARDENS IN THE NORTH

30 WEST YORKSHIRE
A lovingly renovated and extended 300 year-old character property is given a lavish interior.

38 NORTH YORKSHIRE
The past meets the present in a quirky 60s home complete with 21st century extension.

47 CHESHIRE
A large Edwardian house in an award-winning village proves to be the perfect family home.

54 GREATER MANCHESTER
A compact urban plot is transformed into a lush oasis that is big on style and space.

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Georgian Glamour

A 300-year-old house in a village near Leeds has been transformed into an extravagant abode with Irish and Georgian influences. Words **Jennie Musgrove** Photography **Eleri Griffiths**

LEFT A circular window on the first-floor landing looks into the sumptuous master en-suite bathroom. **THIS PAGE** A statement chair by Christopher Guy makes an unforgettable first impression in the hall.

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LEFT An open-plan, traditional kitchen features unusual lighting and a stylish breakfast bar. **THIS PAGE** The spacious oak sunroom provides the perfect place for relaxing with a book or entertaining guests.

"We decided to re-do the roof, and that was probably the most painful time. It was during November, so the house got a bit wet – it was horrible"

"We were looking for an old property in North Leeds, and the criteria was that it had to have character and a separate outbuilding from which we could run our business," says Elissa Phillips, sitting in the oak sunroom of her newly-renovated home in a village near Leeds. "We'd been looking for about a year when my son found it online. As soon as we visited it we knew this was the property for us."

Since leaving Ireland more than 20 years ago, Elissa and her husband Rob have lived in Yorkshire and their sons, Simon, 12 and Adam, nine, grew up in England.

The house was originally built in the early 18th century and has been added to and tweaked by previous owners since then, but the kind of renovation Elissa had in mind for the property was on a much grander scale than it had seen before. "I wanted to restore it to its former glory," she says. Enlisting the help of local building firm TJ Pybus, Elissa began redesigning the home's interior and planning an extension to incorporate an open-plan kitchen and spacious oak sunroom. "I'd say about 80 per cent of it has been a restoration rather than anything new."

Even so, the restoration involved much more than the Phillips had bargained for: not just new ceilings, windows and floors but a whole new roof! "The biggest surprise was having to do something with the roof," says Elissa. "It became apparent halfway into the project that the roof wasn't as sound as it could be. So we decided to re-do it, and that was probably the most painful time. It was during November, so the house got a bit wet – it was horrible."

To distract herself from the rain-filled building site that was her home, Elissa began sourcing furniture in-keeping with the interior design scheme she had already planned. "The second time we visited the house, I decided the colour and theme for each individual room and I haven't moved from that," she says. A two-day trip to »»»

"We'd been looking for about a year when my son found it online. As soon as we visited it we knew this was the property for us"

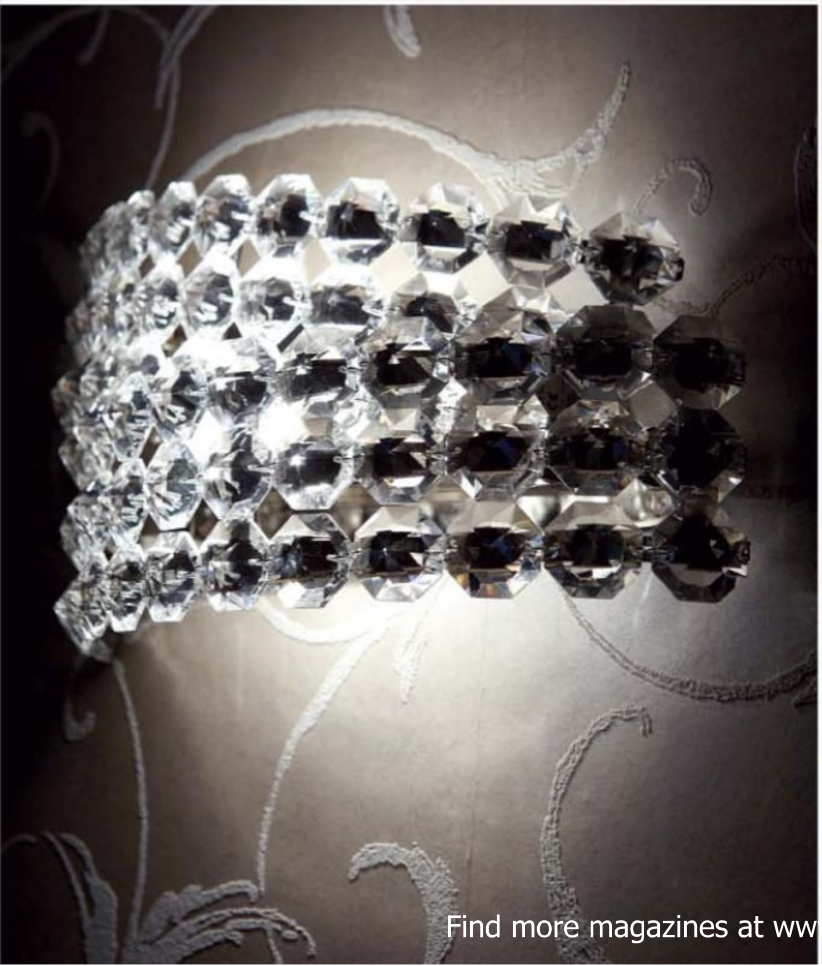
Chelsea Harbour in London was all Elissa needed to find everything, as she explains: "I'm a very decisive person and I make up my mind quickly. There I was in London, picking all the colours and schemes for the rooms and trying to visualise it, but at the time there was water pouring through the ceiling and the whole house was a bit of a building site!"

Elissa's inherent passion for furniture (both her grandfathers were furniture makers and upholsterers, and she and Rob work in the furniture industry) is apparent throughout the home. "I had mood boards in my head," she says. "I picked a key feature for every room and built around it. For some of the rooms the key was colour, for others it was a piece of furniture. I knew the glamorous living room had to be dramatic; I wanted to use blacks and muted shades of gold. That was very much a colour room."

The black and gold living room is not the only glamorous part of the house, however. Extravagant furniture by Christopher Guy features throughout, and the textures, colours and light fittings are a decadent mixture of the glitzy and the ornate. The master bedroom has a lavish purple colour scheme surrounded by elegant Ulf Moritz wallpaper. An adjoining dressing room is lined with white wardrobes with crystal handles: a *Sex And The City*-inspired touch. The en-suite bathroom would sit happily in a luxury boutique hotel, with its classic stone bathtub and electrochromatic glass in the window to obscure the view from outside.

The eclectic style of Georgian Dublin was another influence for the home's interior, and Elissa sought high and low to find the perfect Georgian door. "I spent a lot of time in Dublin taking photos of front doors," she laughs.

Restoration projects can be frustrating at the best of times, with unexpected »»»



FACING PAGE A mixture of geometric and floral patterns was used in one of the living rooms creating a decadent look.
THIS PAGE Striking furnishings and glitzy colour schemes feature throughout the house.

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A dramatic grey and white colour scheme has been used in the en-suite bathroom.

"There I was in London, picking all the colours and schemes for the rooms and trying to visualise it, but at the time there was water pouring through the ceiling and the whole house was a bit of a building site!"

problems and difficult decisions around every corner – but the whole process ran smoothly for Elissa and Rob, thanks to the expertise of Tom Pybus, director of TJ Pybus, and the enthusiasm his team. "It's been great working with Tom because I've had someone creative to bounce my ideas off," says Elissa. "The project has evolved and been completely organic – the original remit was nothing like how it's ended up."

Elissa and Tom came up with one or two ingenious ideas along the way, such as a circular window which looks into the master en-suite bathroom, and a fish tank inset into a wall at the foot of the stairs. "Tom is a bit of a fish tank fan," says Elissa. "He was determined to get one in the house, and we needed something in that particular part of the wall. So I said to him, 'I think you're going to get your fish tank!' The kids absolutely love it too."

Renovating the house has been a full-time job for Elissa for just over a year, and now that it's finally finished, the couple and their sons can relax and enjoy their beautiful new home. Elissa's verdict is nothing but positive: "I'm delighted. It's certainly as I thought it would be and probably better. It's absolutely amazing."

ADDRESS BOOK:

TJ Pybus Construction & Design, Leeds, did all the building and renovation work in the house. **www.tjpybus.co.uk or 0113 2674 222 or 01423 569 464**

Elissa sourced some of the home's carpets, furniture and lighting from Seymours of Darlington. **www.seymoursofdarlington.co.uk or 01325 355 272**

The kitchen was built by the Little London Kitchen Company, Leeds. **www.littlelondonhandmade.co.uk or 0113 250 0169**

The tiling and stonework is by Lapicida, Knarsborough. **www.lapicida.com or 01423 400 100**

All the home's doors are from Doorhaus, Leeds. **www.doorhaus.co.uk or 0870 1650 425**

The Georgian-style fireplaces are from B & B Fireplaces. **www.bbfireplaces.co.uk or 01977 685 400**

The oak room was built by Yorkshire Oak Structures. **www.yorkshireoakframes.co.uk or 0113 387 3391**

Some of the lighting and furniture is by Caroline Gardner Design. **www.carolinegardnerdesign.comor 01423 568 034**

Phase 4 provided the home's audiovisual equipment. **www.phase4.co.uk or 0208 364 6444**

Carpets designed and manufactured by Trendy Tuft Design. **www.trendytuft.co.uk or 01274 855 080**

The flowers in the home's living areas are by Heather Bespoke Floristry. **www.heatherweddingflowers.co.uk or 0113 256 372**

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MAIN BEDROOM »»»

For a classic clean look add white furniture into your home. Dunelm Mill's 'Venetian 3 Drawer' cabinet is the perfect solution, priced from £99.99. Team with splashes of colour through accessories for impact.

HALLWAY »»» »»»

There's nothing better than adding a design classic to your home and Christopher Guy is a favourite of Elissa and Rob's. The oversized 'Shelter' chair defiantly creates an impact - add to any room for an instant wow factor.

STEAL THEIR STYLE

Elissa and Rob Phillips' extravagant home encompasses bold prints, beautiful vibrant colours and classic pieces from leading designer Christopher Guy. Check out our buys to help you create the same look. **For stockist details see page 128**

««« KITCHEN

Add a splash of colour and brighten up your kitchen with a selection of blissful blues from Pots of Paint that will transform your kitchen in an instant. Prices start from £29.50 for 2.5lts.

DRESSING AREA »»»

Perfect for storage these white boxes from John Lewis add a vintage feel and are the ideal way to tidy up any clutter around the house. Grab yours and start storing today, prices start from £12.50.

MAIN BATHROOM

For a statement bathroom piece add a freestanding bath. The 'Kurv' bath from BC is priced at £2,818 and is a must-have luxury item for the home.

MAIN BEDROOM

Bring your favourite colour to life through furniture and accessories. Elissa and Rob have introduced purple throughout their bedroom, do the same with this bold bed throw from Heal's, £160, and snuggle up for a perfect night's sleep.

««« LIVING ROOM

Elissa and Rob have used a variety of colours and textures throughout their home and living area. We found the 'Mayfair' sofa, £2,100, from Darlings of Chelsea, in a similar stylish bold print.

A House Less Ordinary

A unique 1960s house hidden away in the suburban streets of York has been extended in a very contemporary way, creating a dramatic mix of retro and modern. Words **Jennie Musgrove** Photography **Eleri Griffiths**

"There was a hatch and I suppose the idea in the 60s was that the wife would cook in the kitchen and then wheel the food round on a hostess trolley. So we knocked through to make it part of the living space"

LEFT A Bauhaus-style number 60 was boldly placed on the home's exterior frosted glass. When the sun shines through in the morning it illuminates a 60 on the wall inside! **THIS PAGE** Shades of orange and light brown create a retro aesthetic in the home's unusual living room.

"We thought we'd embrace the wood thing. It just felt the right way to go. Some of the changes we made to the house immediately made it so much better, such as replacing the carpet with wooden flooring"

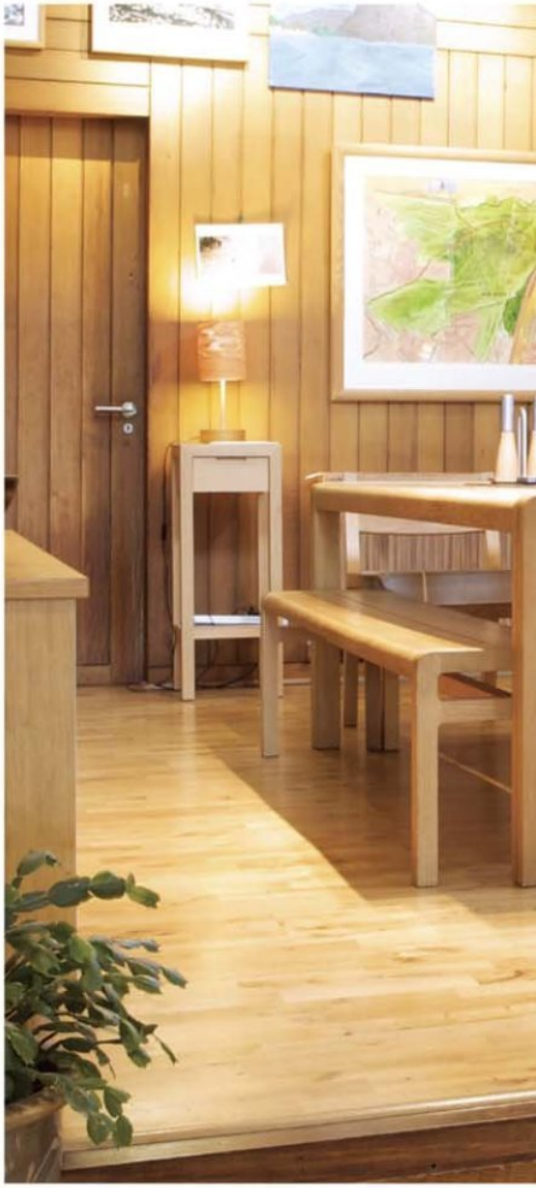
The 1960s was a decade of change and innovation for Britain, and brought with it more than just short skirts and flower power. A cultural revolution was underfoot, and rapid progressions in design and architecture were influencing the way people lived and the furniture they bought. It was during this decade that the Macdonald family in York commissioned local architect Ron Simms to design them a house, on a site overlooking Hob Moor, in which they could entertain guests and clients of their furniture store Macdonalds, which to this day remains one of the finest of its kind in the region. The building that resulted was a modern, open-plan home that was radically different from its neighbours, and a homage to progressive architecture.

Four decades later, the Palmour family were searching for their ideal home when they chanced upon the property, which is tucked away at the end of a cul-de-sac. Simon Palmour, his wife Danielle and daughter Rowan, 11, fell in love with the house straight away, appreciating its unconventional style, sprawling layout and flat roofs. Simon's mother was unconvinced, however. "I brought my mum to look at it from the outside," he says. "She always thinks everything I do is marvellous, but when she saw it, she said, 'Are you sure this is a good idea?' which is her equivalent of saying, 'This is the worst house I've ever seen!'"

Nevertheless, the Palmours saw potential in the house and before long, it was theirs. "We did quite a lot of work to it, mainly installing a new central heating system, new flooring and a new roof," says Simon. "The kitchen wasn't open-plan, as the rest of the house was. There was a hatch and I suppose the idea in the 60s was that the wife would cook in the kitchen and then wheel the food round on a hostess »»»

LEFT Glass doors in the home's modern extension let light flood the room and lead to a peaceful rooftop terrace. **THIS PAGE** A railway station-inspired clock is a beautiful addition to the garden.

"We weren't allowed on site the day they built the extension, so I kept cycling across the moor to watch. They did it in a day, it was incredible – they stuck this steel frame like a big crab over the house"



trolley. So we knocked through to make it part of the living space."

Everything about the house is different from the norm – its cedar-panelled walls and open-plan living areas might have been inspired by Norwegian architecture, and a small adjoining 'gazebo' juts out of one corner as a quirky addition to the home. Simon believes the original layout of the single-storey building was influenced by American architect Frank Lloyd Wright, as the three bedrooms are in a separate area to the living areas. The Palmours furnished the home in keeping with its design: wooden bookcases, a wicker sofa and an oak dining room picnic table complement the stone walls and panelling. "We thought we'd embrace the wood thing," says Simon. "It just felt the right way to go. Some of the changes we made to the house immediately made it so much better, such as replacing the carpet with wooden flooring."

From the open-plan kitchen/dining room, there are a few steps down into the living room, creating a snug and warm space. "It certainly feels like you're living in a house that someone really thought about," says Simon.

After they'd lived in the house for several years, the Palmours decided that they wanted more room and asked Ric Blenkharn of Bramhall Blenkharn architects to design a contemporary extension. "I'm a photographer and we wanted a big space for exhibitions as well as a studio," says Simon. "We also wanted a guest room for when people come to stay, and a bit of space for storage. There's no loft in a flat-roofed house, and nowhere to put anything, so a few extra cupboards were quite welcome!" Rather than extend the property to the side, which would have meant building on the garden, Simon and Danielle decided to extend upwards. There were concerns about the strength of the foundations so Ric devised an ingenious way of building an extension without any of its weight »»»

LEFT A contemporary staircase stands alongside the original property's characteristic stone wall. **CENTRE** An oak floor and oak dining table from Habitat create a Scandinavian look in the dining room. **THIS PAGE** The simple yet modern kitchen is the perfect blend of style and functionality.

“The extension, which floats above and around the original house like a protective shell, made space for a huge nine-metre first-floor room”

resting on the original property. A steel frame was erected over the house, with six pillars propping it up on each side and cedar cladding and floor-to-ceiling windows filling in the gaps. “We weren’t allowed on site the day they built it, so I kept cycling across the moor to watch,” says Simon. “They did it in a day, it was incredible – they stuck this steel frame like a big crab over the house.”

The extension, which floats above and around the original house like a protective shell, made space for a huge nine-metre first-floor room, separate wet room and large storage cupboards. The room’s oak flooring and cedar doors are set off by white walls, on which Simon’s photographs are displayed. Double glass doors lead onto a roof garden overlooking the rest of the house and garden, allowing Simon, Danielle and Rowan to make the most of the summer months. The extension has given the family the extra space they needed, and created a spectacular combination of 60s originality and contemporary innovation. “To be honest, I like anything that isn’t normal,” says Simon. “And this is a bit different to your average house!”

LEFT A simple beige sofa and contemporary coffee table create the focal points of the first-floor extension. **RIGHT** The home’s cedar-clad exterior is strikingly different to the surrounding properties in the area.

ADDRESS BOOK:

Simon Palmour’s photography can be seen at: **www.photoboxgallery.com/palmour, or email: palmour@ntlworld.com.**

Ric Blenkharn of Bramhall Blenkharn architects designed the contemporary extension. **Visit: www.brable.com, email: ric7 ptbrable.com or tel. 01653 693 333.**

EXTENSION »»»

This trendy clear magazine rack and table from Amode adds a designer touch to Simon and Danielle's home. Small and simple the rack is the perfect holder without taking up too much space. Purchase yours, priced at £249.99.

««« DINING AREA

Storage is a key element for Simon and Danielle and we've found the perfect timeless piece from PUJI. The 'Cubist' library is priced at £1,455, so now there's no need to compromise on style.

GARDEN

Ideal for keeping track of the temperature the black thermometer, £33.95, from The Worm That Turned adds character to the garden. Log on and grab yours today.

STEAL THEIR STYLE

Simon and Danielle Palmour's sleek 60s home has real character thanks to the warm tones created through furniture pieces and accessories. If you're looking to create a similar timeless home but are not sure where to start, look no further than our pick of interior ideas. **For stockist details see page 128**

LIVING AREA »»»

Simon and Danielle have added an element of travel into their home, you can do the same with the 'Museum' globe, £30, from Aspace. Available to purchase online so don't be without this eye-catching buy.

««« LIVING AREA

Bring the outdoors in with the cosy 'Eyesea' sofa from Outer Eden. Complete with matching accessories the sofa is priced at £2,500, so sit back and relax in the comfort of your own stylish home.

««« EXTENSION

Set the mood with the 'Bobby' floor lamp, £49, from Habitat. The lamp stands tall and can be adapted to light specific areas in the home. Available in a variety of colours, create your atmosphere today.

LIVING AREA

Introduce a patterned print rug into your home, like the 'Pearl' rug, £277, from Woven Ground. For depth and colour this rug is the ideal choice and would work well in any room.

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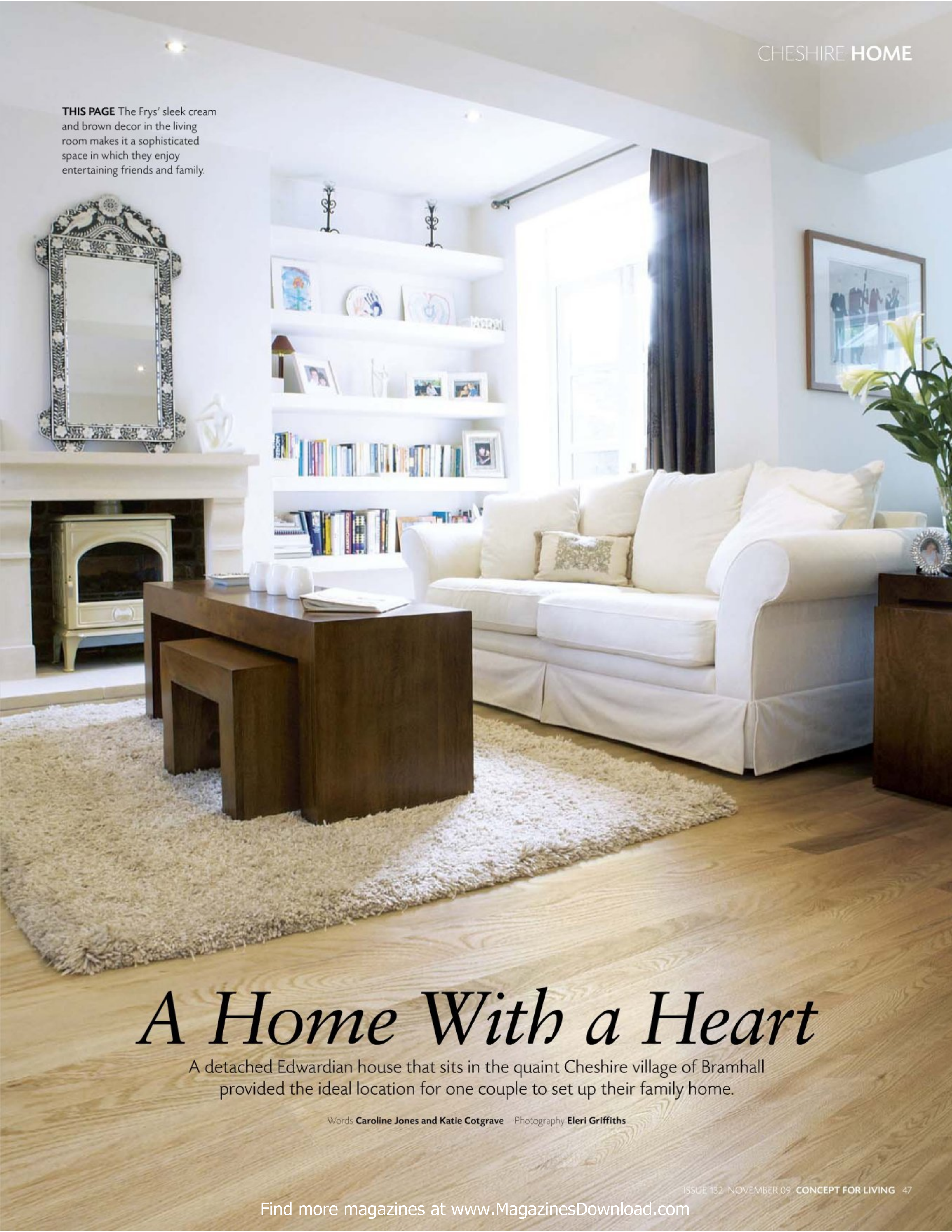

THIS PAGE The Frys' sleek cream and brown decor in the living room makes it a sophisticated space in which they enjoy entertaining friends and family.

A Home With a Heart

A detached Edwardian house that sits in the quaint Cheshire village of Bramhall provided the ideal location for one couple to set up their family home.

Words **Caroline Jones and Katie Cotgrave** Photography **Eleri Griffiths**

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"I already knew the area and had always wanted to live in Bramhall, so when this house came on the market it was ideal"

ABOVE LEFT A cream marble floor complements the lightness of the conservatory. **ABOVE** Caroline buys things she loves for the home, rather than spend money on designer items for the sake of it that just aren't right. **FAR RIGHT** The Frys' stunning Modo Cucine kitchen makes the room their favourite in the home. **RIGHT** A cute tea set is the ideal sideboard display item.

ad.com

When Caroline and Chris Fry began looking for a new, larger home for their family – son Charlie, who's now 12 and Anna, seven – four years ago, they could think of no better place to move than the village that had been voted as having "the friendliest residents in the country" with apparently more community pride than anywhere else. "I already knew the area and had always wanted to live in Bramhall, so when this house came on the market it was ideal," says Caroline. "We were living in a semi-detached house in Cheadle before, which was sat on a main road. Our key focus when we moved was to find a detached house on a very quiet residential road with a big garden. And that's exactly what we got. I saw the potential in this house straight away."

Caroline, a former top nanny, and Chris, a Manchester businessman, bought the four-bedroom Edwardian house and decided to make it their family home in 2005. The couple say their main aim was to create a lovely family space. The Frys chose to retain a lot of the home's original features, such as its fireplaces and radiators, but added a loft conversion, conservatory and a stunning, bespoke kitchen that is huge, but cosy, and even boasts a wine chiller, which was completed last Christmas. "Our main goal was to make the place feel as family focused and inspired as possible," says Caroline. "It's important to have things around the place, like all the photographs, that make it obvious this is above all else a house for living in, not a show-home."

Australian-born Caroline drew on a wide range of inspirations when it came to the interior: family, interior magazines, Spain, where the couple have a second home, plus the homes she used to work in as a nanny in London. "Working as a nanny was a fantastic experience, I got to see such a wide variety of distinguished properties. It gave me an eye for design and knowing how and where to place things," says Caroline. "It also helped me develop a really good idea of what I liked and what I didn't like."

Meanwhile a hint of Mediterranean influence can be detected in rooms like the Frys' bathroom with its floor-to-ceiling stone tiles. "Spending time in Spain has definitely been an inspiration. I got the idea for how »»»

I wanted the bathroom from a restaurant we happened to eat in one evening out there and I love mixing quirky bits that don't really match," says Caroline, who describes her interior style as contemporary but slightly mismatch; she likes to add in the odd vintage-inspired or antique piece here and there.

Caroline's fail-safe places to find pieces for the home range from local stores in Bramhall, to Leek-based antique store Simpsons, plus Laura Ashley and Ikea. "Ikea's great for finding on-trend, seasonal pieces but without the hideous designer price tag. And I love Laura Ashley for clean, chic vintage-looking items," she says, which is the perfect combination for a stylish but children-friendly home.

The most important room in the house to the Frys, and their favourite area, is the kitchen. To get their ideal cook space Caroline and Chris enlisted the services of Manchester's Modo Cucine, the prestigious German and Italian kitchen specialist. Modo realised the Frys kitchen dreams with sleek cream and brown kitchen units and worktops from the 'Saturn' range, a stunning freestanding central island with black marble top plus all the gadgets they could wish for, from coffee machine to wine chiller. The kitchen renovation project took six to eight weeks, but it caused minimum disturbance to the Frys who were by now settled in their new home. "We didn't want to have to move out for six weeks while the kitchen was done and fortunately we didn't have to," says Caroline. "There were a few weeks when we had to cook on a stove in the living room, but that was all and it was finished by Christmas, which was brilliant. Modo Cucine had everything so well planned and thought out, plus the fitters were fantastic too."

Shortly before they had the kitchen fitted the Frys extended the space with a conservatory at the back of the house. Once the kitchen was done they were then able to level all the flooring and complete the space with a fantastic marble floor that runs from the kitchen right through to the dining area in the conservatory, thus uniting the two areas and helping the space flow. The conservatory also provides the Frys with an excellent dining and entertaining area. "The kitchen and conservatory really complete the home," says »»»

"I love the kitchen – it's the hub. The kitchen is the heart of this home"

FAR LEFT Family photos add a personal touch to the Frys' conservatory/dining space. **ABOVE** A loft conversion creates a peaceful master bedroom sanctuary. **ABOVE RIGHT** The black marble topped central island is a stunning focal point in the kitchen.

Find mo

"Our main goal was to make the place feel as family focused and inspired as possible"

Caroline. "Although there's still plenty of potential for future plans."

Such future developments may include making the loft conversion that is currently Caroline and Chris's master bedroom into a teenage lads' pad and turning what is currently Anna's bedroom at the front of the house into a master bedroom with ensuite. "As the children get older we thought it might be an idea, once Charlie's 15 or 16, to make the loft space his room, while Anna's room is in fact the old master bedroom of the house anyway and has the potential to have an ensuite added, so we may do that and turn it into our room," says Caroline. "For now though we love the place just the way it is."

Caroline and Chris's Bramhall home has a cosy, relaxed feel – from the original fireplaces in both the living rooms to the large, welcoming kitchen and dining area. And there's no question as to Caroline's favourite aspect of the home "I love the kitchen – it's the hub," she says. "The kitchen is the heart of this home."

When the kitchen was re-fitted, Caroline insisted on keeping her original Falcon Range cooker as she loves it so much.
ABOVE RIGHT The Fry's dog relaxes in their welcoming garden.

ADDRESS BOOK:

The home's conservatory was constructed by Cheadle Glass.
Visit: www.cheadleglass.com or tel. 0161 480 6644 for more information.

The kitchen was designed and installed by Modo Cucine.
Visit: www.modocucine.co.uk or tel. 0161 439 5508 for further details. Alternatively you can visit the Bramhall showroom: 201 Moss Lane, Bramhall, Cheshire, SK7 1BA. Email: info@modocucine.co.uk for more.

Several of the mirrors throughout the home were sourced from Bhs.
Visit: www.bhs.co.uk or tel. 0845 196 0000.

The tiles in both the master and ensuite bathrooms are from the Natural Stone Emporium.
Visit: www.stone-emporium.co.uk or tel. 0845 491 8791. Alternatively visit their showroom at 27 Long Lane, Chapel-en-le frith, High Peak, Derbyshire.

nload.com

HALLWAY

For the ideal glamorous light check out the 'Gypsy' chandelier priced at £49.99 from The Contemporary Home. Hang in the hallway, as the entrance to your home is the most important room when it comes to first impressions.

KITCHEN

Set your kitchen off in style with stylish storage accessories from John Lewis. Priced at £22 for a set of 3 these cute and sleek canisters will add instant character – get yours today.

STEAL THEIR STYLE

Caroline and Chris Fry have used a neutral palette and contemporary furniture pieces throughout their beautiful Bramhall family home. Get the look with our stylish finds – it really is that easy. **For stockist details see page 128**

KITCHEN

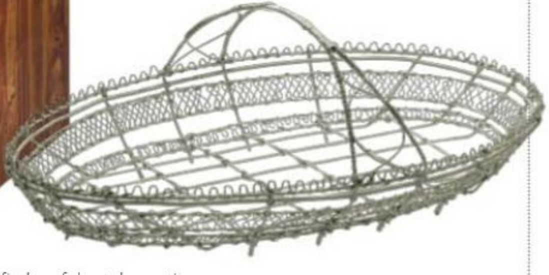
Add an oversized feature clock to your kitchen, there's a wide variety of shapes and sizes out there, so choose one that suites your particular style. We've found the perfect vintage clock from Beth Stevens – a must-have at £129.95.

LIVING ROOM

Throughout their home Caroline and Chris have added an eclectic mix of family pictures and ornaments, so why not add some statement vases to your home. Available from Marks & Spencer, the 'Alfresco' bottle is priced at £55.

LIVING ROOM

Add warmth and texture to your living room with this classic nest of wooden tables from John Lewis. Priced at £209 they are the perfect choice and will suit both contemporary and traditional homes alike.



LIVING ROOM

Stay toasty warm through the winter months with this woodburning stove from Charnwood, 'Island1' is priced at £1,495 and is available in a variety of colours to suit your home.

CONSERVATORY

Clutter can soon mount up in a busy family home and that is why you will find useful yet decorative woven and wirework baskets scattered throughout Caroline's home. Ideal for storing smaller items, as well and fruit and veg, this wirework flower basket, £75, from Marston & Langinger is available in three colours.

Find more magazines at www.MagazinesDownload.com

SMALL SPACE BIG IMPACT!

A suburban garden on the outskirts of Manchester combines clever colour combinations with innovative lighting and specific plant choices to create a peaceful oasis and the illusion of space.

Words **Caroline Jones** Photography **Eleri Griffiths**

Find more magazines at www.MagazinesDownload.com

When Nick and Belinda White bought their detached house in Didsbury, the garden was little more than a small muddy space at the rear of their property with very little grass, shabby fencing and a few overgrown bushes. But the couple knew they wanted to start from scratch and create a stylish garden area that their two young children could play in, but which also looked fantastic. Initial enquiries led them to commission Manchester-based landscape designer David Keegan to transform the space.

"The brief was 'really green, lush, easy to maintain and looks good'," says Nick. "We spoke to a few different garden designers, but it was David's enthusiasm that drew us to him. He knew what he was doing, his passion for plants was great and he was so easy to deal with."

When David began the project there were two factors that he knew would be his main considerations when designing an inventive garden that would not only enhance its space but also look good. "The first was the style of the house," explains David. "The style of the house pretty much dictates the whole approach that you take to how the garden will end up looking. And the other thing was, because it's a small space, I wanted to look at it in terms of maximising the amount of useable space for adults as well as kids."

"IN A SMALL SPACE IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE A BACKDROP OF PLANTS THAT WILL ACTUALLY GO THROUGH THE WINTER AS WELL"

In order to get the most out of the area a key element in David's design was the raised beds which border the garden – the entire edge of which can double up as a seating area if there are a lot of people in the garden. "A little trick like that means that in a small space you can get a lot more people in comfortably," says David. "And it also brings the planting to a different level. The planting is virtually at the same level as the kitchen table. So when you're dining, you've got a green backdrop."

Nick and Belinda liked the idea of having a few flowers in the garden, but they didn't want lots of them – vital information that David established early on. "I go through the same process with all my clients," he says. "After I've first met them and talked to them, I then develop a mood-book of different styles, colours and planting to get a clearer idea of the types of things that they like, which is how I came to end up using a lot of semi-tropical planting in this garden."

Plant choice is particularly crucial when designing and landscaping a small garden, as David explains. "When I did the planting for Nick and Belinda's garden I deliberately put in a lot of evergreens so that it wouldn't look bleak in the winter. In a small space it's important to have a backdrop of plants that will go through the winter as well. In a bigger space, you can afford to use seasonal planting, but with small gardens it's just a completely different approach." »»»

OPPOSITE David chose a simple, predominantly green, colour palette for the Whites' garden, with tropical splashes of yellow. The original perimeter fencing was replaced and the new fence panels and concrete posts painted black to diffuse the boundary. This backdrop also highlights the colours of the plants and offsets the lush greens. **ABOVE** The floor-to-ceiling glass patio doors open right up to extend the indoor space out and vice versa.

ADDRESS BOOK:

The garden was designed by David Keegan of David Keegan Garden Design & Build. **Visit: www.dkgardendesign.co.uk, email info@dkgardendesign.co.uk or tel. 0161 950 9509.**

Find mo

"THE STYLE OF THE HOUSE PRETTY MUCH DICTATES THE WHOLE APPROACH THAT YOU TAKE TO HOW THE GARDEN WILL END UP LOOKING"

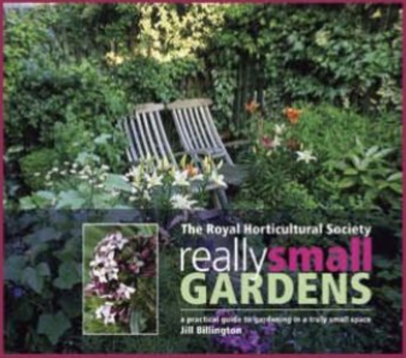
A basic colour palette of white, blue and green was chosen to create the illusion of space and a simple, pared-down lighting scheme was also implemented. "My fear is, in a small garden, if you have too many colours it starts to make it look fussy," says David. "You've got to keep to a palette of three or four colours. The white lights hidden behind plants give the space more depth and the colour combination of white and green helps to make a small garden feel bigger."

A common issue with inner city gardens or small outdoor spaces in built-up areas is blocking out surrounding buildings that spoil the view and the ambiance of the garden. Shortly after Nick and Belinda moved into their Didsbury property a new building was built in their vista, in order to screen this out David was inventive with bamboo and the placement of trees. "The bamboo will eventually grow to about 4m high, so it'll soften all of that," says David. "And the silver birch in the corner will add vital screening without overshadowing the garden or closing it in, as the whole idea is to keep it open."

As well as an abundance of plants and a contemporary design that compliments Nick and Belinda's house, David also added a narrow-board hardwood deck, so that the couple could get maximum usage from their outdoor space. This not only provides a space that the kids can dash about and play on, but is also large enough to accommodate a dining table for alfresco meals. "The idea of using a slimmer board was a conscious decision," says David. "I use a narrower board for the decking than usual because it makes the whole area look bigger. If I had used the standard size board it would actually have ended up looking very small, but with the slimmer board the area looks twice the size."

It's a clever little trick that clearly works, as Nick and Belinda are thrilled with their fantastic outdoor space, which has now gone from muddy and pokey to lush and spacious. "When my family turned up to see the new garden for first time they thought it was huge!" says Nick. "Compared to what it was they thought the transformation was amazing."

CFL RECOMMENDED READ
RHS REALLY SMALL GARDENS



By Jill Billington. Published by Quadrille. Paperback. Available now. Price: £9.99 www.quadrille.co.uk

Providing essential information on how you can transform a small space with the aid of a few pots, a patio, some flower beds, a small water feature and even a tiny vegetable patch, *RHS Really Small Gardens* is a great read if you need help with ideas and advice on what to do with a tiny inner city garden. The book covers all key aspects from deciding what you want from your garden and making it fit the space you have, to using light and shade to make the area look bigger, the use of plants to create movement, shape and texture, plus showing you how to provide shelter and privacy without compromising on space.

A neat, small patch of grass, slim-board decking and a dual-function border create clean, crisp lines and a spacious-looking inner city garden.

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STORAGE MADE SIMPLE

Compiled by **Caroline Jones**

Whether you prefer to display your much-loved items or simply store them away for a minimal look, clever storage is the key to clutter-free rooms. From seamless to statement it's all here.

'Intramuros' wall unit, designed by Marelli & Molteni, £8,134, 'Chabada' lounge chair, £1,262, 'Majordome' pedestal tables, from £422, Roche Bobois.

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KITCHEN

Keep it clean and tidy in this busy area with creative clutter-busters, from simple storage jars to clever cupboards. **For stockists see page 128**

1 Vitra 'uten.silo', from £177, The Lollipop Shoppe. 2 Silver kitchen storage canisters, £9.50, Red Candy. 3 Set of three Seletti recycle bins, £35, Heal's. 4 'Dacke' kitchen island, £399, Ikea. 5 'Neos' plinth drawers, kitchens from £10,000, Rational. 6 'Jura' freestanding armoire in oak and ash, £2,995, Fired Earth. 7 'Ravenna' oak top box wall units, kithcens from £15,000, Quantum Fitted Furniture.

'BEFORE BUYING NEW STORAGE CLEAR OUT THE CLUTTER AND SORT THE ESSENTIALS FROM THE SPACE WASTERS - HAVING A GOOD CLEAR OUT

Find more magazines at www.MagazinesDownload.com

DINING

Tuck it away or proudly put it on display, whatever your preference always keep it tidy thanks to sleek sideboards and chic cabinets. For stockists see page 128

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1 Orla Kiely 'Rowan' cupboard, £1,495, Heal's. 2 Porro bespoke hand-painted 'Modern Material House' storage unit, configuration as shown £22,600, Ferrious. 3 Knoll 'Florence' credenza storage unit, £2,093, Spacecraft. 4 'Lanelle' display cabinet, £516, Danetti. 5 'Brass' cabinet, £2,155, Abitare. 6 'Origami' console by Luigi Gorgoni, £2,156 exclusive to Roche Bobois.

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CAN DOUBLE YOUR IMMEDIATE STORAGE SPACE BUT YOU MUST BE RUTHLESS'

Find more magazines at www.MagazinesDownload.com

BEDROOM

Create a relaxing haven by utilising every nook and cranny with everything from a luxury walk-in wardrobe to a simple shoe store. **For stockists see page 128**

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1 'Asplund' pedestal G2 unit, £399, Skandium. 2 'Twiggy' restored and repainted vintage steel lockers £825, The Old Cinema. 3 'Mimi' ottoman, £206.50, Umbra. 4 Porro wardrobe, £5,800, Ferrious. 5 'J-me Nest' freestanding shoe rack, £95, all-up-and-on. 6 Bedroom 'Stack' storage options, P.O.A, Molteni & C.

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'AVOID LETTING YOUR CLUTTER MOUNT UP - SORT THROUGH ITEMS SUCH AS MAGAZINES, PAPERS AND TOILETRIES ON A REGULAR BASIS

Find more magazines at www.MagazinesDownload.com

BATHROOM

Splash out and make sure you store all those lotions and potions in style with our striking statement pieces. **For stockists see page 128**

1 'Inside Out' cabinet, £275, Purves & Purves. 2 'Mobil' storage collection from £344, Arredo. 3 'Skware' solid surface storage bath £5,465, BC Designs. 4 Porro 'Chiba' range, confirguration as shown (including stools) £10,250, Ferrious. 5 Walnut finish tall cabinet, from £547, Ripples. 6 'Arc' furniture series 1 type A, from £1,540, Vogue Bathrooms. 7 Deep lined 'Kobu' baskets, £23 each, The Holding Company.

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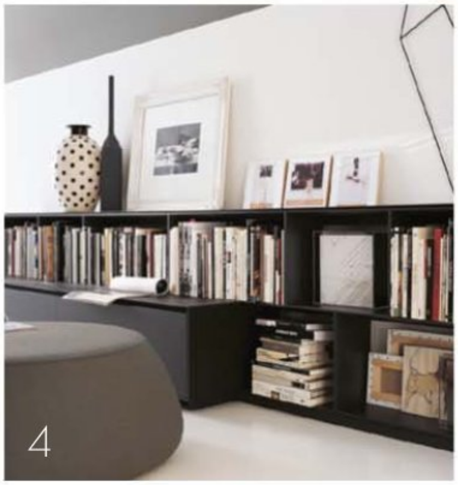
AND THROW OUT ITEMS YOU DO NOT NEED OR ARE PAST THEIR BEST"

Find more magazines at www.MagazinesDownload.com

LIVING ROOM

Tame technology and keep things clutter-free with storage that is a piece of art in its own right. **For stockists see page 128**

1 'Amari' room divider in black oak, £2,979, BoConcept. 2 Kartell 'Panier' storage table, £146, Graham and Green. 3 Isokon 'Plus Penguin Donkey', £410, Skandium. 4 'Flat C' by Antonio Citterio, P.O.A., B&B Italia. 5 'Pandanus' modular double unit £195, 'Gebang' baskets, £24 each, The Holding Company. 6 'Nara' storage unit and room divider, £699.99, Amode.



'DO NOT OVERLOAD YOUR STORAGE - GET ORGANISED AND MAKE THE BEST USE OF THE SPACE BY USING CONTAINERS FOR SMALLER

Find more magazines at www.MagazinesDownload.com

STUDY SPACE

Create the ideal non-stressful work environment by keeping it simple with super-flexible storage and functional furniture. **For stockists see page 128**

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1 Vitra self-storage system, from £68.85, Utility. 2 Large gel gem baskets £15 each, Store. 3 Established & Sons 'Stack' wood sliding drawers, £2,185, The Lollipop Shoppe. 4 Checkered stripe stationery box, £6.75, Paperchase. 5 'Otto' desk unit, £399, John Lewis. 6 Porro 'Homework' collection: gloss wall units £1,779 each; tables £2,122 each; shelving unit, £5,327, Ferrious.

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ITEMS AND GROUPING ITEMS ACCORDING TO USAGE AND FREQUENCY'

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HALLWAYS

Make a good first impression by keeping the entrance to your home streamlined with hardworking pieces that utilise walls and limited space. **For stockists see page 128**

1 'Team 7' hallway furniture, from £2,500, Wharfside. 2 Case Nazanin 'Kamali Loop' mirror, £329, Eame 'Hang It All', £167, Kartell 'Lizz Chair', £131, John Lewis 3 Mesh 'Cove' Shelf , £12, Store. 4 Key shaped key rack, £17.95, Graham and Green. 5 'Milton' console table, £429, Habitat. 6 Willow wicker stair basket, £27.50, Objects of Design. 7 'Hi Tripod' contemporary coat stand rack, £390, Amode.

'MANY OF US UNDERESTIMATE THE AMOUNT OF STORAGE WE NEED - BE GENEROUS AS THERE IS NO POINT INVESTING IN NEW ITEMS ONLY TO IMMEDIATELY FILL THEM UP LEAVING NO ROOM FOR NEW POSSESSIONS'

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EXPERT **ADVICE**

Confused by the myriad of storage solutions on offer? Well don't be, our interior experts have all the answers you need.

JULIE KERNER
Interior design consultant,
BoConcept, Redbrick Mill
01924 460 483
www.boconcept.co.uk
www.redbrickmill.co.uk

KATIE CROLLA
Interior designer specialising in Porro storage systems,
Ferrious, Manchester
0161 228 6880
www.ferrious.com

What are the key considerations when planning storage for the home?

Consider what you need to store and how. Each room needs different storage requirements; ask yourself, 'How often do I need to get to some of my things? What would I like to keep on display?'

Practicality is essential. It's pointless having a wardrobe without enough hanging space, or a bookshelf that can't accommodate a box file. Here at Ferrious, our Porro storage systems are carefully designed and tailored to consider the customers specific requirements.

In terms of larger storage items which is better – freestanding or fitted furniture?

It all depends on space and budget. Freestanding items look just as good as fitted, also consider long-term plans, you can always take freestanding items away with you if you decide to move.

The vast majority of our Porro storage systems are freestanding and not permanent fixtures. This gives the customer the flexibility to relocate the item to another room.

Should I opt for open storage and have everything on show or closed storage and keep possessions out of sight?

This is really a matter of personal taste. While some people like a more clean-cut look with a few items on display, others enjoy surrounding themselves with books and other belongings, anything goes, and there is plenty of storage out there to suit all tastes and budgets.

If you are tidy and organised you could opt for open storage, however it's only worth having something on show if you really want other people to see it! It really depends on what you are storing and its location within the home as to how practical open storage is.

My whole home requires de-cluttering but what should I throw and what should I keep?

I would say if you haven't used items for over a year, then if you are really serious about de-cluttering now is a good time to consider 'Do I really need this?'

Aim to tackle one room a week otherwise it can be too overwhelming. Be ruthless and throw away anything that you haven't used for the last year. Keep any classic pieces that have the potential to be restored or re-covered to give them new life. Get rid of anything that is dated or broken.

I'm moving into a new home and want to start as I mean to go on in a clean and tidy environment – what's the best way to organise my belongings?

Make sure that you have enough storage in all rooms that work for you, so you don't get overspill into other areas of your home.

Try to rationalise and quantify what you want to store. Also ensure you make use of the full ceiling height; people often waste a lot of space by not going as high a possible with their storage. Utilising this space is great for things that you don't use regularly.

CFL RECOMMENDED READ

GET ORGANIZED

By Terence Conran
Published By: Conran Octopus
Available now
Price: £16.99, paperback
Visit: www.octopusbooks.co.uk/conran

Before you plan a complete storage overhaul, read *Storage: Get Organized* by British king of design Terence Conran. The book is split into two parts. The first section offers advice on how to assess your storage needs and provides handy and informative case studies, while in part two Conran addresses key aspects of the home area by area: living space, kitchen and eating area, bathroom, bedroom, children's room. As well as visual inspiration in the form of excellent photographs to illustrate the types of storage options discussed, *Storage* also gives tips on how to store everything from kids' toys to bathroom towels, tips on how to prevent clutter from accumulating and ideas on how to display items.

READER OFFER

Concept For Living readers can order ***Storage: Get Organized*** at the special price of **£13.50** (Conran Octopus, £16.99 RRP) with free p&p (UK and Northern Ireland only).

TO ORDER CALL 01903 828 503 QUOTING REF 'CONR69'.

(OFFER IS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND ENDS 31 DECEMBER 2009).

Porro 'Megur' collection, Ferrious.

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10% OFF AT THE HOLDING COMPANY

Leading storage specialists, The Holding Company, are offering *Concept For Living* readers the chance to purchase their complete collection at a discount of 10% both in-store and online or by mail order.

THE HOLDING COMPANY 10% OFF FOR EVERY READER

Looking to curb the clutter? The Holding Company specialises in providing stunning storage solutions for every aspect of your home. Whether looking for contemporary or traditional, you will find an extensive range of simple yet stylish designs in a vast array of finishes including leather, acrylic, chrome and rattan. And for a limited period The Holding Company is offering every *Concept for Living* reader a fantastic 10% off their entire range!

To claim your discount simply fill in and redeem the voucher in store. Alternatively, visit: www.theholdingcompany.co.uk or place an order via the company's mail order catalogue, quoting special offer code CFL1109. The voucher is only valid for one store visit. The special online and mail order offer code CFL1109 may only be used once per reader.

This in-store, online and mail order offer is only valid between 25 October and 25 December, 2009.

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QHOTELS

SMALL BUT **PERFECTLY FORMED**

Clever planning and décor transformed a dark, cramped bathroom into a light, bright airy space.

Words **Paula Woods** Photography **Carl Pendle**

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Measuring in at just 1.5m by 2.5m the bathroom in Besa and Muz Alni's West Midlands home could never be described as roomy. The original room was also very dark and dingy, and the couple's aim when updating was to bring a sense of light and space to this tiny space.

Besa and Muz's initial idea was to simply opt for a minimalist wet-room complete with striking shower, toilet and basin. "We originally thought the room was too small for both a separate shower and bath, however having spoken to Robert Taboada at Ripples we discovered that this was not the case," recalls Besa. Robert suggested incorporating a wasted corridor alongside the bathroom, thus grabbing back precious centimetres and allowing for the addition of a full size bath.

The couple's brief was for a 'lovely bright, light, clutter-free space, full of unobtrusive storage and with a sense of luxury'. Ripples obliged by adding a glamorous whirlpool bath to the original wet room concept. The resulting statement bath turns this room into a relaxing retreat, whilst an open overhead rain shower simply drains through the floor. The lack of screens ensures the eye travels uninterrupted around the room thus adding to the illusion of space, as does the wall-hung mirrored storage and basin which both help increase the perceived floor space.

In terms of décor the couple kept it simple with an all-white scheme complete with splashes of bold chocolate brown in the form of accessories and timber trims. Large format white wall tiles and clean contemporary lines again add to the illusion of light and space, while a slatted blind provides privacy without blocking available daylight. The striking snakeskin-effect floor tiles are an exuberant touch and inspired by Besa's love of animal prints – a finishing touch that really makes a statement in this totally transformed space.

"It's amazing what you can do with a small space if you have the right designer with the right vision", says Besa. ■

A LARGE MIRRORED CABINET BOUNCES LIGHT AROUND THE NOW AIRY ROOM AND ALSO PROVIDES USEFUL STORAGE

ADDRESS BOOK:

The bathroom was designed and supplied by Ripples and includes a whirlpool bath, contemporary shower and striking python-effect floor tiles.
Visit: www.ripples.ltd.uk or tel. 0870 750 1626

Find m

GET IT RIGHT... SMALL SPACES

1 SPACE
Plan carefully to ensure there is adequate floor space around each fitting to enable movement about the room. Look to space enhancing wall-mounted fittings and consider freeing up wall space by fitting underfloor heating.

2 FITTINGS
Opt for simple streamline designs and consider space-saving compact suites or corner basins and toilets (avoid corner baths as they can actually take up more room). Sliding shower doors or screens will not require floor clearance.

3 STORAGE
The busier your bathroom looks the smaller it will appear, so invest in adequate, well planned storage. Utilise wasted wall space with wall-mounted items and bear in mind that bespoke or built-in furniture will maximise space..

4 LIGHTING
Good lighting is vital as it will instantly help open up a small space. Opt for a flexible combination of task and ambient lighting, and keep window treatments simple to make the most of available daylight – try opaque glass or blinds.

5 MATERIALS
Keep it simple with light, bright natural or pale tones that lend an open airy feel in smaller spaces. Avoid busy patterns that will overpower and look to reflective surfaces and finishes to help bounce light around the room.

MAIN IMAGE 'Diva' lamp, £1,790 by Northern Lighting, Funktion Alley Ltd.
INSET 'Lalika' collection, from £30, Harlequin.

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100% DESIGN AND DECOREX 2009:

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LONDON SHOWS

Concept For Living headed south to check out the latest design collections and bring you the hottest trends about to take the world of interiors by storm, plus news on up-and-coming designers set to make an impact. Compiled by **Katie Cotgrave**

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CHAIRS

It is all about marrying comfort and style with these bold statement chairs, set to hit the headlines this season. **For stockists see page 128**

DESIGN & DECOREX **DESIGN & DECOREX** DESIGN & DECOREX **DESIGN & DECOREX** DESIGN & DECOREX **DESIGN & DECOREX** DESIGN & DECOREX **DESIGN & DECOREX**

Chair, from £1,520.30, Christopher Guy

'Mabel' chair, £1,834, Nina Campbell

'Puff' bedroom chair, from £2,995, Aiveen Daly

'Tivoli' chair by Verner Panton, from £375, Aram

'Helen' chair, from £592, The Dining Chair Company

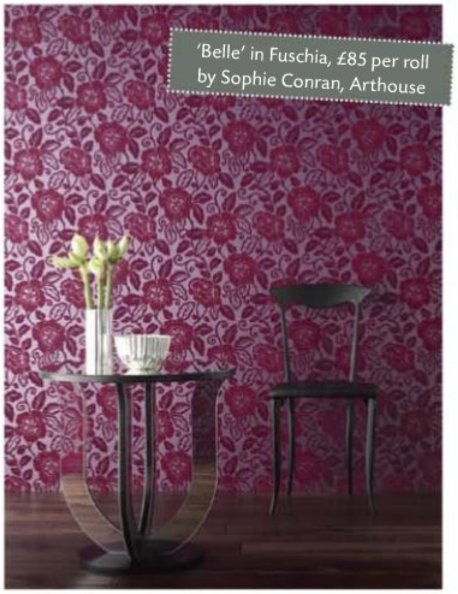
'Hush' chair, P.O.A, Naughtone

'Moneypenny' chair, from £2,995, Aiveen Daly

FABRICS AND WALLCOVERINGS

Be brave and make a definite design statement as this year is all about introducing colour and texture into your home. **For stockists see page 128**

DESIGN & DECOREX **DESIGN & DECOREX** DESIGN & DECOREX **DESIGN & DECOREX** DESIGN & DECOREX **DESIGN & DECOREX** DESIGN & DECOREX **DESIGN & DECO**



'Belle' in Fuschia, £85 per roll by Sophie Conran, Arthouse

'Cats' collection, P.O.A, Charlene Mullen

'Alhambra' felt throw, P.O.A, Michelle Mason

'Simla Silk' fabric, £23.96 per metre, James Hare

'Cloud' fabric' £69.95 per sqaure metre, Rapture and Wright

'Gunpowder' chinoisere hand-painted wallpaper, from £270 per sq m, Fromental

LIGHTING

Pendant and table lights are set to take centre stage thanks to striking sculptural forms, tactile texture and lots of colour. **For stockists see page 128**

DESIGN & DECOREX **DESIGN & DECOREX** DESIGN & DECOREX **DESIGN & DECOREX** DESIGN & DECOREX **DESIGN & DECOREX** DESIGN & DECOREX **DESIGN & DECOREX**

'Cage' lights, P.O.A, Dare Studio

'Beata' lighting, P.O.A, Pinch

'Doosey' light, P.O.A, Innermost

'Orbis' lamp, £865, Decorus Furniture

'House Sparrow' light, P.O.A, Missprint

'Niagara' chandelier, from £35,000, Lladro

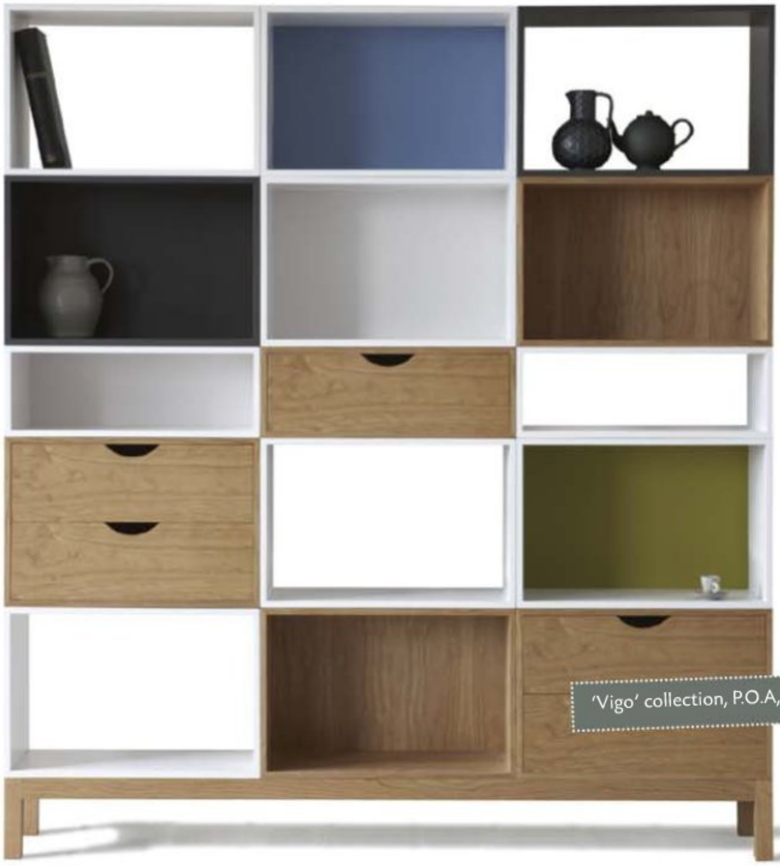
Lighting, from £140, Original BTC

Wire lighting collection, P.O.A, Deadgood

OCCASIONAL FURNITURE

Iconic designs that will definitely stand the test of time is this year's mantra when it comes to furniture and accessories. **For stockists see page 128**

DESIGN & DECOREX **DESIGN & DECOREX** DESIGN & DECOREX **DESIGN & DECOREX** DESIGN & DECOREX **DESIGN & DECOREX** DESIGN & DECOREX **DESIGN & DECO**



'Vigo' collection, P.O.A, Pinch

'Montana' unit, £1,595, Aram

'Milly' television cabinet, £2.587.50, Bevan & Hely-Hutchinson

'Heima' candlestick, £44.50, Normann Copenhagen

Salt and pepper mills, from £28 each, David Mellor

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TABLES

Curvacious lines and attention to detail is the name of the game when it comes to this season's tables, be it coffee, console or dining. **For stockists see page 128**

DESIGN & DECOREX **DESIGN & DECOREX** DESIGN & DECOREX **DESIGN & DECOREX** DESIGN & DECOREX **DESIGN & DECOREX** DESIGN & DECOREX **DESIGN & DECO**

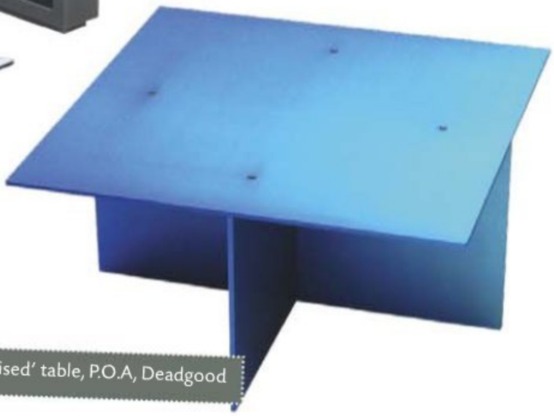
Coffee table, from £1,944.65, Christopher Guy

Evolved table, P.O.A, Encompass Furniture

'Gallard' table, £1,003, Danetti

Molecule coffee table, £3,335, Decorus Furniture

'4foldlow' table, £882, Formtank

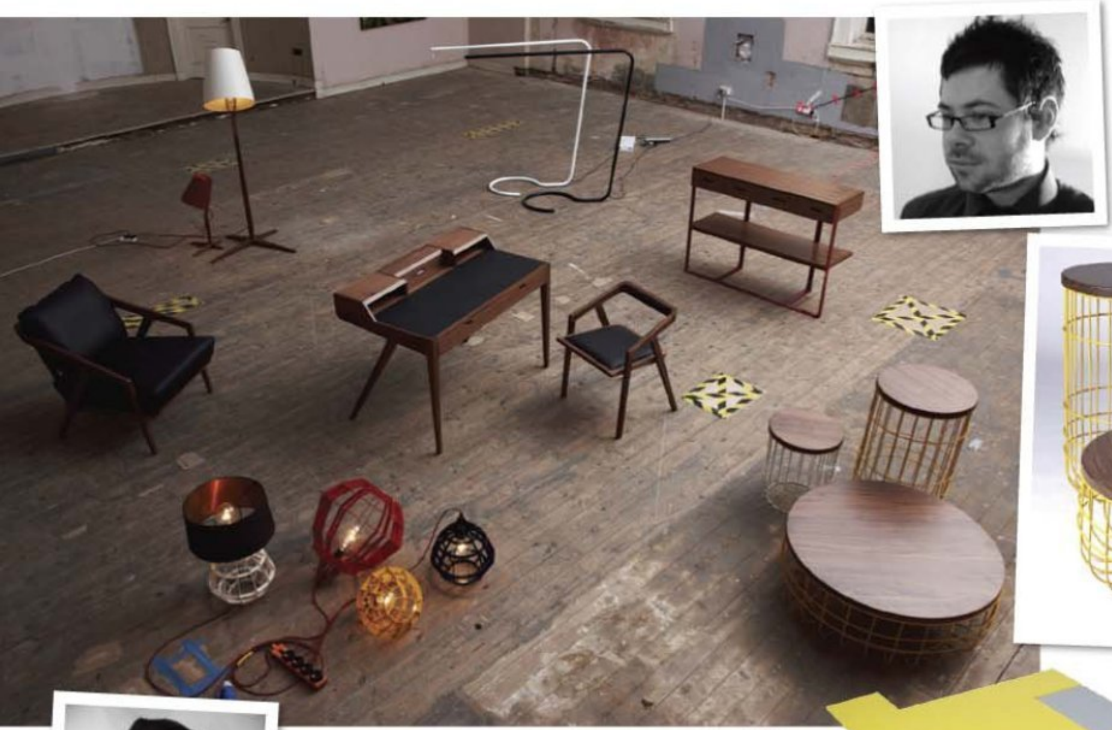


'Anodised' table, P.O.A, Deadgood

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

Set to take the design world by storm, we bring you our pick of the three best up-and-coming designers from this year's shows. For stockists see page 128

DESIGN & DECOREX **DESIGN & DECOREX** DESIGN & DECOREX **DESIGN & DECOREX** DESIGN & DECOREX **DESIGN & DECOREX** DESIGN & DECOREX **DESIGN & DECOREX**



Launching at 100% Brighton-based Design Dare Studio is a new company that designs and produces furniture and lighting. Founded by Sean Dare each piece is made with great attention to detail by local craftsmen. Keep an eye out for their 'Cage' lighting, a definite *CFL* favourite.
Visit: www.darestudio.co.uk today.

London-based designer Kirsty Whyte and founder of 'Pure Whyte', is one of the most talented up-and-coming UK designers. After graduating in 2003 Kirsty decided to make her own designs last Christmas. She specialises in furniture, glass and ceramic pieces and has had her work recently showcased in Glamour magazine. Watch out for Kirsty as she is set to make a big impression.
Visit: www.pure-whte.com to check out her collections.

This year sees the launch of talented UK designer Jethro Macey's self-produced range and his collaborations with Decode London. His distinctive designs include 'Trio' tables and 'Carpenter' stools.
Visit: www.jethromacey.com to see some of his inspirational work.

Find more magazines at www.MagazinesDownload.com

DINE IN STYLE

With Christmas just around the corner now is the time to start thinking about catering for family and friends. If your current dining suite is simply not up to scratch in the style stakes, don't despair, just check out the latest fancy yet functional furniture on offer.

Knoll dining table, £1,012, Knoll 'Tulip' chair, £771, Skandium

Find more magazines at www.MagazinesDownload.com

CONTEMPORARY CHIC

RETRO JUNKIE

DINING ROOM SOLUTIONS

CONTEMPORARY CHIC FROM TOP 'Roma' dining table, £1,495, 'Frilly' chair by Patricia for Kartell, £135, Heal's. 'Where' table, from £4,988, 'Who' chair, from £694, Molteni & C. 'Umi' dining table, £399, 'Verdi' chair, £69, Habitat. **RETRO JUNKIE FROM TOP** Knoll 'Florence' round table, from £1,943.50, Knoll 'Bruno' tubular side chair, from £980.50, Nest. 50's style oak table, £485, and chair, £120, Rose & Grey. Orla Kiely 'Rowan' dining table, £1,495, 'Rowan' dining chair, £295, Heal's.

For stockist details see page 128

Find more magazines at www.MagazinesDownload.com

DINING ROOM SOLUTIONS

CLASSIC WHITE

TIMELESS TIMBER

CLASSIC WHITE FROM TOP 'Diapason' dining table, £3,432, 'Queen' chairs £545, Roche Bobois. 'Provencale' dining table, £850, upholstered chairs, £575 per pair, carver chair, £400 each, Laura Ashley. Circular table from £975, 'Ant' chair by Fritz Hansen, from £247, The Lollipop Shoppe. **TIMELESS TIMBER FROM TOP** 'E15 Tondo' table, £4,317.41, 'E15 Hans' chair, £806.08, Nest. 'Kubus' solid wood table, from £2,695, bench, £1,395, cube with handles, £695, Chattels Designer Furniture. 'Summit' dining table, £549, chair, £189, and sideboard, £719, John Lewis.

For stockist details see page 128

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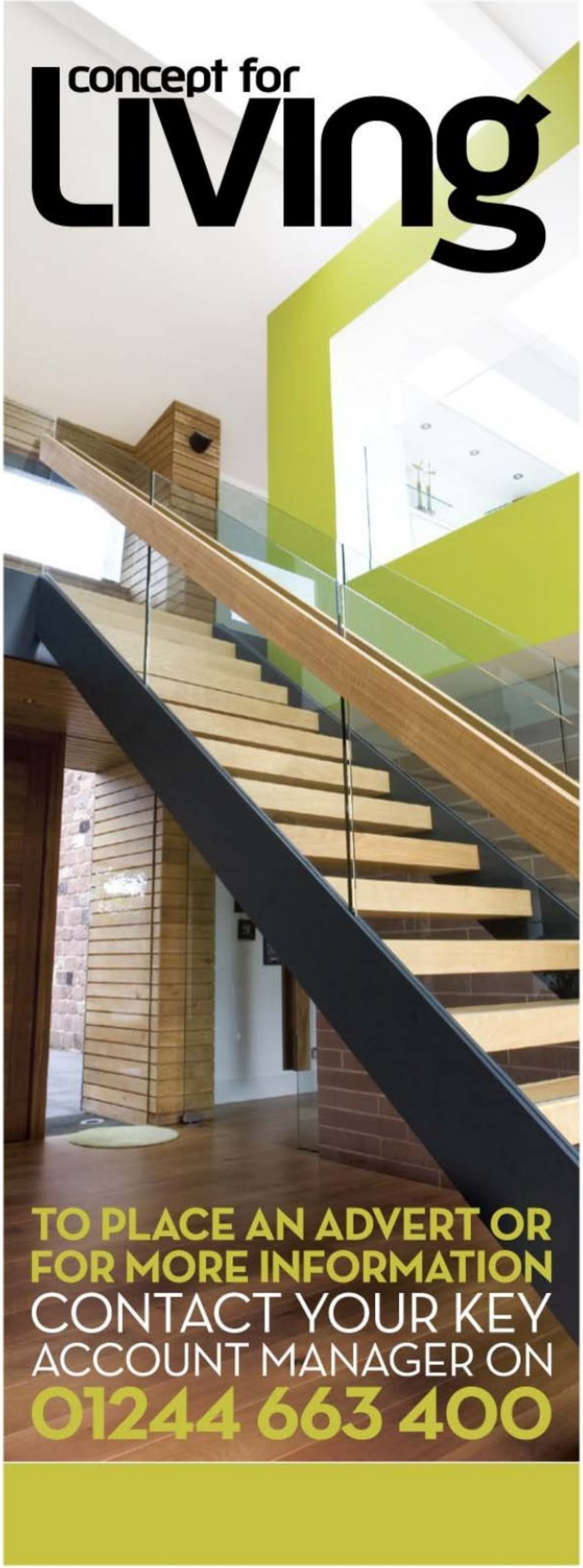

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WIN TICKETS TO THE NORTHERN HOMEBUILDING & RENOVATING SHOW!

HARROGATE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, 6-8 NOVEMBER 2009

WIN!

This month *Concept For Living* is giving away 50 pairs of tickets to the North's only property show for self-build, renovation, conversion and home improvement.

If you are interested in picking up the latest in innovative products and services, inspirational design ideas, renovation tips and cost saving solutions for the home, then The Homebuilding & Renovating Show is definitely for you! The dedicated self-build and home improvement show for the North, this prestigious exhibition features over 180 exhibitors, 44 free seminars and masterclasses, as well as providing a unique opportunity to get advice from industry experts. Held at the Harrogate International Centre from 6th to 8th November it really is a must-visit event.

So whether you are looking for land to build your own home, want to extend your property to create an open-plan kitchen or are thinking about converting your loft or basement to create extra space, you will find the products, services, advice and information to help create your perfect home – so don't forget to bring along your drawings, plans or just your ideas. And leave plenty of time to visit the seminars and masterclasses or simply speak to one of the many experts at the Show in order to get some great advice on renovating, design, planning, self-building and greener living.

The Northern Homebuilding & Renovating Show is on at the Harrogate International Centre from 6th to 8th November and tickets cost £5 in advance by calling 0844 5811377 or £8 on the door (children under 16 go free). For more information and tickets, visit www.homebuildingshow.co.uk.

HOW TO ENTER

To win one of 50 pairs of tickets to the show, simply email your name, address and daytime telephone number to: competitions@conceptforlving.co.uk, with 'Homebuilding and Renovation Show Competition' in the subject box. Or post your details to: *Concept For Living*, The Old School, Higher Kinnerton, Chester, CH4 9AJ. The closing date for entries is 31st October 2009.

WE LOVE SHOPPING... ONLINE

With December just around the corner – yes really – it'll soon be time to start thinking about Christmas shopping, so this month the team at *CFL* have decided to stay at home! If you too can't face hitting the shops during the festive season, or at any other time of year for that matter, then pour yourself a glass of wine, switch on the computer and head to our favourite websites.

Check out **www.bombayduck.co.uk** for chic and cute homewares and accessories. From light pulls to doorknobs, coat hooks to decorations this site has all the finishing touches you need to complete your home.

PLÜMO

BEST FOR VINTAGE-INSPIRED PIECES
VISIT WWW.PLUMO.COM

If you're interested in home trinkets and accessories with a hint of the exotic then Plümo's for you. And if you love what they have to offer your home, there's a chance you could also end up browsing their clothes, shoes and bags too. **Cabane blankets, £179.**

BODIE & FOU

BEST FOR STYLISH LIVING
VISIT WWW.BODIEANDFOU.COM

This chic online boutique has earned its place in our 'bookmark' list. Run by two French sisters at Bodieandfou.com you can find home accessories, lighting, furniture and unique gifts. We love their selection of prints, and bet you will too. **'Endless love' in mulberry, £38. Kaeko coffee table, £750.**

Want a unique print, portrait or piece of photography? Visit: **www.vandaprints.com.** This online art selection has more than 3,000 images from the Victoria and Albert Museum, plus frame options.

THE BALCONY GARDENER

BEST FOR OUTDOOR LOVERS
VISIT WWW.THEBALCONYGARDENER.COM

A fairly recent arrival to the world-wide web, Thebalconygardener.com not only offers 'readymade' container gardens but also a host of products to help you create a roof terrace, balcony or outdoor space that's both chic and unique. **Hand-blown glass ball decorations, £10 each.**

ALL THINGS ORIGINAL

BEST FOR UNIQUE IDEAS
VISIT WWW.ALLTHINGSORIGINAL.COM

The name says it all: from yellow and hot pink Union Jack cushions to vintage lavender birds, Scrabble magnets to pop-art chairs, you'll find it all, and more, at Allthingsoriginal.com – we could do all our Christmas shopping right here. **Disco lamps by Susie Maroon, £45.**

OCHRE & OCRE

BEST FOR ORGANIC FINDS
VISIT WWW.OCHREANDOCRE.COM

With organic and natural homewares from aprons to table clothes, and candles to hampers, Ochreandocre.com is well worth an evening mooch. The best bit? All their products are in lovely earthy shades so it couldn't be easier to mix and match. **100% organic cotton tea towels, £12 each.**

Find more magazines at www.MagazinesDownload.com

THE PERFECT PENDANT

Looking to shed a little light on that dull room? Then pick up a pendant and check out our top tips for adding show-stopping style to your home.

1 Pendants provide general (ambient) or work (task) light. They can be used as stand-alone lighting or in conjunction with other lighting to create a more flexible scheme. So establish your priorities before you buy.

2 In the lighting design stakes pendants lead the way thanks to a dazzling array of sizes, shapes, colours, patterns and textures. In terms of materials anything goes from perspex, fabric and paper to plywood, metal foils and glass, allowing for a very flexible price range. Here at *CFL* we love to make a statement and our on-trend favourites include stunning sculptural shades from Amode, Dwell and Rume, Verner Panton's colourful Flowerpot lights, Tom Dixon at Heal's and classic Kartell at Utility Design or Graham and Green.

3 Although most rooms have a single central light there is no hard and fast rule and the latest trend for grouping a number of individual pendants makes for a striking display. Alternatively take a look at Bodie and Fou's quirky clusters.

4 When considering size look to the proportions of your room for guidance as a pendant should neither overpower or get lost within the space – as a general rule the bigger the space, the bigger the pendant.

5 Choose reflective surfaces and paler shades to lighten and brighten a room as these enhance the light source and bounce it around a room. Alternatively you can create a cosy atmosphere using darker shades that absorb light, resulting in a softly diffused glow. Look to shades with wide openings underneath to shed light downward and vice versa, whilst an enclosed bulb will create a subtle glow.

6 Pendants can be used to visually play with the proportions of a room – to visually lower a ceiling look to pendants that cast a downward light, while uplighters can be used to accentuate a high ceiling.

7 Hanging heights are not an exact science – try hanging your pendant so that the base is around 185-190cm from the floor, then adjust accordingly. And in busy areas increase this to at least 198cm so as not to cause an obstruction. The ideal height for lights over a table is usually around 90cm above the surface.

8 Where possible, always fit dimmer switches for pendant lighting as this will allow you to instantly alter the intensity of the light source to suit varying moods.

OPPOSITE 'Unique Copenhagen Flowerpot' pendant by Verner Panton, £155, Cloudberry Living. **ABOVE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT** 'Kartell' suspension lamp, £129, Graham & Green. Pendant reflector light, £19.99, The Contemporary Home. 'Josephine' light in purple, from £80, Utility Design. 'Josephine' light in red, £169, Purves & Purves. Foscarini suspended cage light, £318, Diesel. 'Loren' black acrylic honeycomb light, £85, Heal's. **TOP** 'Libellule Dragonfly' light £38.50, Mooch. **ABOVE LEFT** 8-string cluster light, £410, Bodie and Fou.

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Daisy...... Daisy......

elephant designer beanbags

Oversized and generously filled, Elephant beanbags definitely live up to their name and are a cost-effective way of injecting funky colour and designer prints into kids' bedrooms, family rooms, games rooms and teenage dens. Go for a single splash or group two or three together for a paint-box effect – Elephants look even better in herds! These versatile seating solutions are great for parties and sleepovers, providing soft support for all the family in durable, wipe-clean fabrics. Better yet, the Jumbos weigh in at a mighty 140cm x 180cm.

Visit www.elephantbeanbags.co.uk to view our full range, request colour swatches and order. Or call 01386 423760

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TEN OF THE **BEST**

FOOTSTOOLS

We've searched high and low to bring you the best footstools from the leading designers so sit back, relax and put your feet up!

Location **Oddfellows, Chester**
Stylist **Katie Cotgrave** Photographer **Eleri Griffiths**

1 Polka dot footstool, from £152, The Footstool Company. **2** Tartan footstool, from £137, The Footstool Company. **3** Stripe footstool, £49.99, Dunelm Mill. **4** 'Maison Deco' footstool, from £159, BHS. **5** Leather footstool, £39.99, Dunelm Mill. **6** 'Hamilton' stripe footstool, £379, BHS. Queen Anne style footstool, £36.95 per pair (smaller size not shown), Scotts of Stow. **8** 'Natalia Swivel' footstool, from £319, Barker and Stonehouse. **9** Universal footstool, £435, MultiYork. **10** 'Pinch' stool, from £295, Naughtone.

For stockist details see page 128

Compiled by Jennie Musgrove

DISCOVERY SPACE

Be inspired by Discovery Space this November with the quirky blog of an illustrator, John Murphy's beautiful photographs and the best contemporary craft centre in North Wales.

For stockists see page 128.

Photography Ele... Griffiths

WORTH A VISIT
Ruthin Craft Centre, North Wales

Since re-opening its doors after extensive redevelopment last year, 25-year-old Ruthin Craft Centre has become recognised as one of the best galleries for contemporary craft in North Wales. The new building was designed by award-winning architects Sergison Bates and its undulating roofs echo the surrounding Clwydian hills. The centre's three gallery spaces feature a changing programme of exhibitions throughout the year. Objects in ceramics, silver, textiles, glass and recycled materials amongst others are presented by both Welsh artists as well as prominent makers from the UK and overseas.

The retail gallery offers contemporary craft alongside design books and magazines for sale, while Café R next-door serves delicious home-cooked food sourced locally. Also located within the centre are six artist studios, education and residency workshops, tourist information gateway and a courtyard terrace with bespoke wooden furniture.

There are currently two exhibitions at Ruthin Craft Centre: *Clearly Drawn* and *Follow A Thread*. *Clearly Drawn* takes a closer look at figurative decoration in cast and blown glass, and is the first glass-specific exhibition to be staged at the new centre. *Follow A Thread* features the work of six tapestry artists which reflects the history of Dovecot Studios, originally established in 1912 under the patronage of the Bute family and Edinburgh College of Art.

For anyone interested in contemporary craft, the centre is well worth a visit if you happen to be in North Wales this winter.

Entrance and parking to Ruthin Craft Centre is free. Opening times are daily from 10am to 5.30pm. www.ruthincraftcentre.org.uk

CLASSIC SPACE
The Arco Floor Lamp

Inspired by the design of a streetlight, the dramatic steel and marble Arco Floor Lamp was designed in 1962 by Achille Castiglioni and Pier Giacomo Castiglioni. Effortlessly combining form and function, the Lamp's polished shade extends up to 2.4 metres into a space, providing overhead lighting without the need for ceiling suspension. A hole in its weighty marble base can accommodate a broom handle, making the lamp easy to move around. The Arco Floor Lamp is featured in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

INVESTMENT BUY
Flos Arco Floor Lamp, £1,369, Nest
www.nest.co.uk

GET THE LOOK
Arched Arco Style Floor Lamp, £99.99, Amode
www.amode.co.uk

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ON OUR RADAR
John Murphy

Artist and curator John Murphy creates imaginative photographs using punchy colours and fanciful imagery, presented in his trademark ornate frames. From his home in Philadelphia, John explores fantasy, beauty and artifice, and his prints and stationary are now available in UK Habitat stores. We chat to him about his memories, inspirations and plans for the future.

HOW IS YOUR WORK INFLUENCED BY WHERE YOU LIVE?
I've recently relocated out of the city and being surrounded by nature has had a big impact on my work. Having deer and foxes in our back garden is really magical.

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON AT THE MOMENT?
I'm working on a series of new collages that incorporate interiors and exteriors. Art Group is also producing a print and stationary line of mine that is available this autumn exclusively through Habitat.

WHAT'S THE LAST THING YOU SAW THAT REALLY INSPIRED YOU?
My kids.

IF YOU COULD GO ANYWHERE WHERE WOULD YOU GO?
To the beach.

WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY?
A lazy day at the beach with my family.

WHAT'S THE BEST BOOK YOU'VE EVER READ?
On Rue Tatin: Living and Cooking in a French Town, by Susan Herrmann Loomis.

WHAT IS YOUR EARLIEST MEMORY?
When I was growing up there was a family that lived next to us. He was a jazz musician and she was a painter. I remember him playing *When the Saints Come Marching In* on his trumpet in our basement. I must have been around four years old. Our basement had red wallpaper with swirling images of piano keys and top hats!

NIGHT OR DAY?
Day.

TRADITIONAL OR CONTEMPORARY?
Contemporary.

IF YOU COULD MEET ANYONE IN THE WORLD, WHO WOULD YOU CHOOSE?
The poet Patti Smith.

WHAT IS THE BEST THING YOU'VE EVER DONE?
Start a family.

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON LIFE HAS TAUGHT YOU?
Don't be afraid to make mistakes.

www.shopjohnmurphy.com

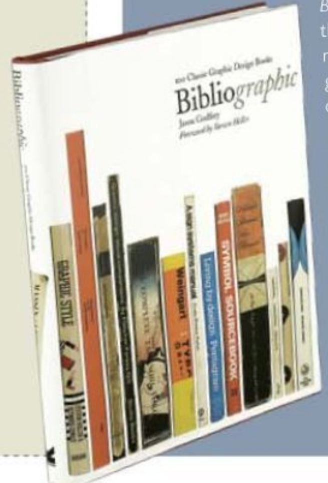
WEBSPACE
www.alheighton.blogspot.com

Our latest online addiction is the blog of Doncaster-based illustrator Al Heighton, whose work was featured in the May issue of *CFL*. Al's irreverent observations of life in the North of England are accompanied by his witty drawings of people, places, and cups of tea. From being caught out at Doncaster Racecourse 'Ladies Day' to the inspirations behind his football illustrations for the *Guardian*, Al's posts are a blast of fresh air and an interesting insight into the life of an artist. Log on in your lunch hour for an instant cheer-me-up!

BOOKMARK
Bibliographic: 100 Classic Graphic Design Books

By Jason Godfrey
Foreword by Steven Heller

Bibliographic is a comprehensive and insightful compilation of the best graphic design books of the last 100 years. Bringing together historic titles from pioneering type foundries to recent monographs from leading contemporary studios, the bibliography explores the evolution of graphic design in the 20th century. Each book is illustrated with a selection of spreads and covers, and a brief explanation by Jason Godfrey, director of Godfrey Design, London.



If you're a design professional or simply want to know more about the subject, this book provides a unique overview of rare and influential graphic design titles.
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GET READY FOR THE SWITCHOVER!

WIN A STATE-OF-THE-ART DIGITAL SET TOP BOX

Did you know that the switchover to digital takes place in the Granada region on 4th November? If not, don't panic! Thanks to leading digital set top box provider, TVonics, 10 lucky *CFL* readers can win a fantastic 'MDR-240' box, worth £44.99, so you won't miss a second of your favourite programmes!

With the switch to digital fast approaching, TVonics is helping viewers throughout the country switchover with the minimum amount of fuss. Each of TVonics' wide range of products is not only stylish and easy to use, but has built-in eco-friendly technology and guarantees rock-solid reliability.

The TVonics 'MDR-240' meets all new Government guidelines and, thanks to its low power consumption, is designed to last the life of the TV it converts. What's more, it won't get overloaded with information it cannot process and will re-tune when necessary by responding to broadcast information. This means that you will automatically be prompted to re-tune your box when required, so you don't have to worry that your TV viewing will be interrupted. The 'MDR-240' comes with a full digital tick approved Freeview box and audio description for the partially sighted and blind, plus subtitles for hearing impaired and deaf users. The 'MDR-240' also offers improved features, such as an easy grip remote control and an eight-day on-screen TV guide, so you can plan ahead at the touch of a button!

The set-top box can be connected using a standard SCART socket, so you can go digital in a matter of seconds and, what's more, as it's Freeview, there are no strings attached and no monthly subscription.

Set up in 2004, this British-owned company has quickly established itself as well-respected name in the digital industry. And thanks to a dedicated team with more than 60 years experience in the design and manufacture of digital set top boxes and televisions, TVonics has succeeded in creating award-winning and ground-breaking products and services for the UK Freeview digital TV market.

To find out more visit: www.tvonics.com or tel. 0870 8030551.

THE PRIZE

TVonics is offering 10 lucky readers the chance to win a state-of-the-art digital set box worth £44.99.

HOW TO ENTER

To enter simply answer the following question: **In what year was TVonics set up?**
A 2002 **B** 2003 **C** 2004
Email your answer to competitions@conceptforliving.co.uk with 'TVonics' in the subject box and state you name, address, email address and daytime telephone number. Or, post your entry to: TVonics Competition, *Concept For Living*, The Old School, Higher Kinnerton, Chester, CH4 9AJ.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Full terms and conditions apply. The prize is subject to availability, non transferable and there is no cash alternative. Closing date for all entries is midnight 17 November 2009.

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Art for All

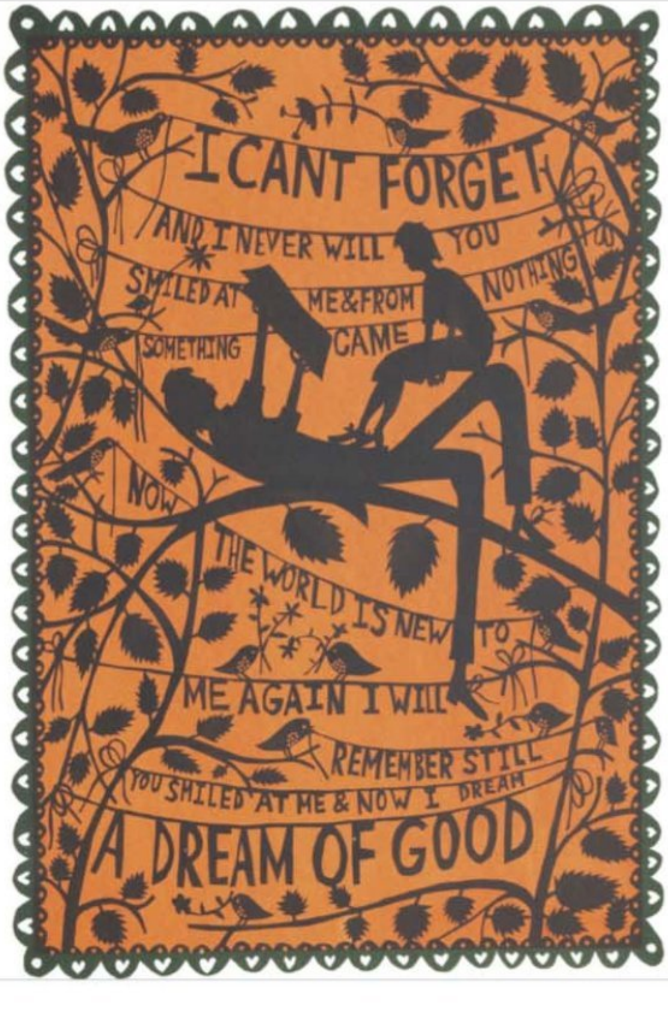
The Watergate Street Gallery opened in 1992 with a philosophy to bring new, fresh, different, yet affordable art for all.

With over 1000 framed pictures on display, to suit all tastes and pockets, you are sure to find the perfect picture for your home or office.

We also have a treasure trove of collectable artists including Peter Blake, Jack Vettriano, Beryl Cook, Robert Heindel, Willi Kissmer, Donald Hamilton Fraser, Roy Fairchild Woodard, Todd White, Bernard Vogel and Terry Frost.

The Watergate Street Gallery

60 Watergate Street, Chester, CH1 2LA   t: 01244 345 698   www.watergatestreetgallery.co.uk



ROB RYAN

You can still do a lot with a small brain

14 November 2009–21 February 2010

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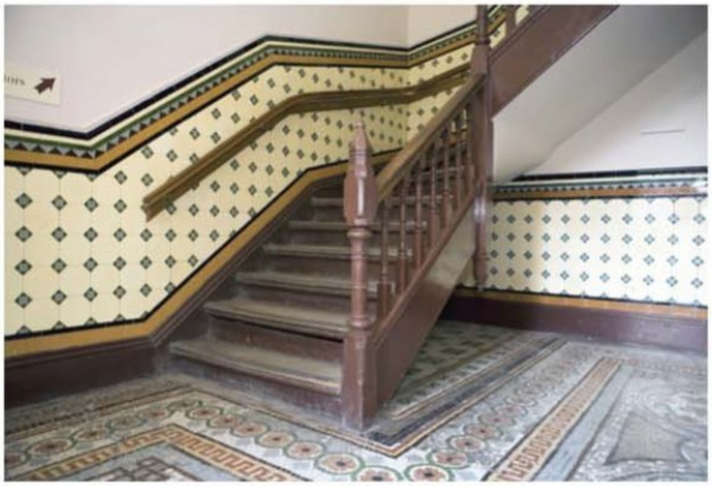


BACKSTAGE AT

CRAVEN DUNNILL JACKFIELD

The Craven Dunnill Jackfield tile factory in Shropshire produces high-quality, individually hand-made wall and floor tiles for restoration and bespoke projects. *CFL* visited the factory to get a behind-the-scenes look at how floor tiles are created.

Words **Jennie Musgrove** Photography **Eleri Griffiths**

TILES WITH STYLE...

1 TILE PROJECTS

Craven Dunnill Jackfield produces floor tiles for both domestic projects and larger contract projects. "We produce traditionally-made encaustic floor tiles and plain geometric tiles," says Gemma Ball, senior sales manager. "We generally find that people have an original floor and they want us to create matching tiles to either replace or repair it. We also do large-scale new installations, and we've been involved in some quite prestigious projects such as Keble College, Oxford, and Kew Gardens."

2 MATCHING AND DESIGNING

"We offer a matching service so that if a customer has a small triangle missing in their floor, we can match and replace the tile," says Gemma. Sometimes, however, a floor is so old that there is no way to repair it. "What can happen is the tile looks fine on the surface but the substrate has gone completely. To repair that is impossible so it involves taking the old floor out and making a new one."

Jon Griffiths, designer at Craven Dunnill, will take the floor dimensions and use CAD software to create a mock-up of what the new floor will look like.

5 THE RIGHT CLAY

Once the mould is made and the colours are right, Chris makes a batch of clay to produce however many tiles are needed. All the clays are made on site, which gives Craven Dunnill infinite flexibility and means they can produce almost any size, pattern and colour imaginable. Raw materials are mixed, according to a recipe, in about 500 litres of water. The mixture then goes through several complex machines to remove any water and air, and comes out as clay, ready to be made into tiles.

6 PRESSING TILES

Chris is now ready to start pressing the tiles using the mould he made earlier. The inlay clay (the back of the tile) is pressed first, then liquid colour clays are poured over the inlay to create the pattern. The tile is then left to dry for a few days before Chris scrapes away the surplus clay to reveal the pattern. "I comfortably press about 40 to 50 tiles per day," he says.

7 DRYING AND FIRING

The raw tile is left for one to two weeks, until it's well and truly dry. It is then fired in a gas kiln for three days at between 1,000 and 1,100 degrees centigrade. "A gas kiln contains a lot more oxygen than an electric one, so we can get certain colours with a gas kiln that we wouldn't get with an electric kiln." Between one and two hundred tiles can fit in the kiln, which is used twice a week. Once fired, the tiles are cut to size and shipped out to the client, ready to be laid.

3 MOULD MAKING

Floor tile production manager, Chris Cox, has been producing encaustic tiles for more than 20 years and is skilled in the process. To make a new tile, a mould is created using a plaster block, into which Chris carves the tile's pattern. This can take up to two days but once completed, a mould will last for hundreds of pressings. The mould is slightly oversized because the clay tile will shrink when it's fired.

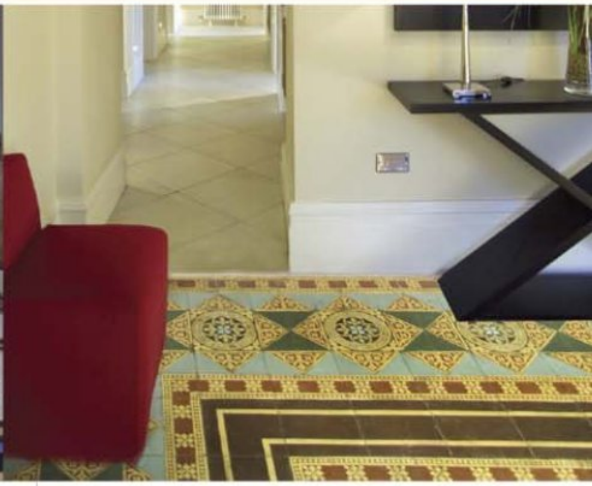
4 COLOUR MATCHING

Raw clay is a completely different colour to what it will be after firing, so for restoration projects, Chris experiments until the clay matches the colours of the original tile exactly. "We have to do a whole series of tests and fire them so we get a true colour reading," says Chris. "It's a very long-winded process but it has to be, we can't take any shortcuts."

A HISTORICAL SITE

Craven Dunnill was founded by Henry Powell Dunnill in 1872 in Ironbridge, Shropshire. The purpose-built tile factory, named Jackfield, comprised all the latest technologies and Craven Dunnill prospered until the post-war years of the 1950s, when the market suffered a downturn. The company ceased producing tiles but continued to import and distribute them from their new headquarters a few miles away in Bridgnorth.

In the 1980s, the factory site was bought by the Ironbridge Gorge Museums Trust, which opened Jackfield Tile Museum. In 2000, Craven Dunnill returned to the site as tenants of the Museums Trust and resurrected the tile-making side of the company. The current director of Craven Dunnill, Peter Howells, is the grandson of former director Trevor Howells and remembers visiting the factory as a boy.



8 THE FACTS

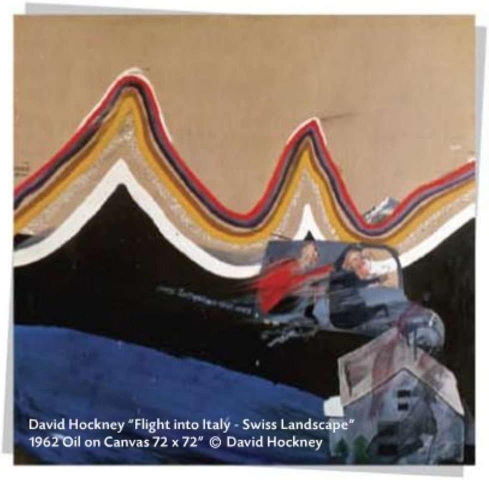
- The pattern on encaustic tiles is inlaid rather than painted or screen-printed on, making them incredibly hardwearing.
- Making a new tile mould can cost from £500 upwards depending on the complexity of the tile.
- There are currently more than 600 tile moulds at the company, and this number is always increasing.
- Craven Dunnill also manufactures wall tiles and has repaired and restored tiles in a number of London Underground stations.
- Clay recipes are a trade secret, so unfortunately we can't tell you how the clays are made!

9 THE END PRODUCT

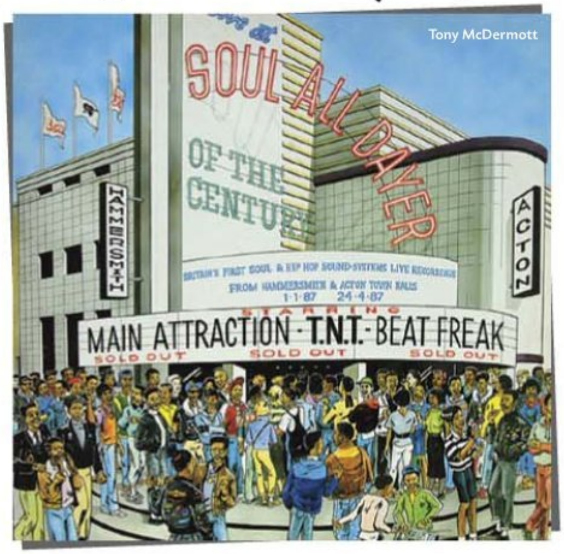
Aside from domestic and contract projects, Craven Dunnill Jackfield also produces a tile range for Fired Earth and sells giftware in a number of museums including the V&A and National Gallery in London. On average, a project costs between £25 and £30 per tile, and will last for hundreds of years to come.

WHAT'S **ON**

We take a look at six must-see events and exhibitions across the North, from a hip-hop inspired retrospective to the ideal destination for a crafty Christmas shopping trip.



David Hockney "Flight into Italy - Swiss Landscape" 1962 Oil on Canvas 72 x 72" © David Hockney



Tony McDermott

Alex Hamilton, Sensorium

David Hockney "A Bigger Splash" 1967
Acrylic on Canvas 96 x 96" © David Hockney
Photo: Richard Schmidt

HOME GROWN

THE STORY OF UK HIP HOP

Urbis, Manchester
Tel. 0161 605 8200
www.urbis.org.uk
Admission: Free
Open Tuesday to Sunday from 10am to 6pm
Closed Mondays
Until March 2010

Home Grown: The Story of UK Hip Hop explains the wonderful, unpredictable story of UK hip hop, a music and culture that dragged itself up from the streets and produced some of Britain's most esteemed artists. The exhibition showcases never before seen photography from the personal collections of DJ Milo (the Wild Bunch) and DJ 279 and rare film footage sourced directly from Malcolm McLaren and cult documentary director Dick Fontaine. It will also include rare audio, flyers, posters, clothing and unseen photographs from the private collections of artists, promoters, producers, dancers and photographers – including the legendary Beezer, photographer of the Wild Bunch before they became Massive Attack.

The exhibition was co-curated by Urbis's Andy Brydon in collaboration with hip hop writer James McNally and artist/musician Kid Acne.

SENSORIUM

PICTURES FROM NATURE'S LABORATORY

Brantwood, Coniston
Tel. 01539 441 396
www.brantwood.org
Admission: Adults from £4, children (5-15) £1.20
Open March to November 11am to 5.30pm
November to March 11am to 4.30pm
Until 13 December 2009

Scottish artist Alexander Hamilton has unveiled the results of his 10-month residency at John Ruskin's former Lake District home, Brantwood, with an extraordinary collection of images of plants which have revealed themselves under the influence of either the sun or the moon. Exhibited alongside Ruskin's own work in rooms where the Victorian visionary spent the final 28 years of his life, Sensorium features a series of paper-based photographic artworks utilising the techniques of cyanotype and chromatograph. The result is works which capture vital processes such as the sap moving within the plant at different phases of the moon and the channels of relationship of the root to the flower, 'photographed' into the paper by the sun.

MAJOR DAVID HOCKNEY EXHIBITION

Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham
Tel. 0115 924 2421
www.nottinghamcontemporary.org
Admission: Free
Closed Mondays. Open Tuesday to Friday 10am to 7pm, Saturday 10am to 6pm, Sunday 11am to 5pm

Brand new art gallery, Nottingham Contemporary, is set to open with a splash, with its first exhibition displaying more than 60 works by David Hockney. The exhibition will re-examine Hockney's work between 1960 and 1968 in the context of art today. It is the first time the artist's early work has been brought together since the Whitechapel retrospective of 1970, almost 40 years ago.

Exhibition curator and director of the gallery, Alex Farquharson is known for his adventurous approach. "Hockney, in this period, was at the crest of a wave, not only in the artistic avantgarde, but in culture in general," he says. "It is a fascinating trajectory, from his first idiosyncratic takes on abstraction in 1960 to his unforgettable representations of southern California several years on. It feels absolutely the right time to be revisiting this work now."

Barbara Hepworth, Three Forms, 1935 C Bowness, Hepworth Estate & Tate, London 2009

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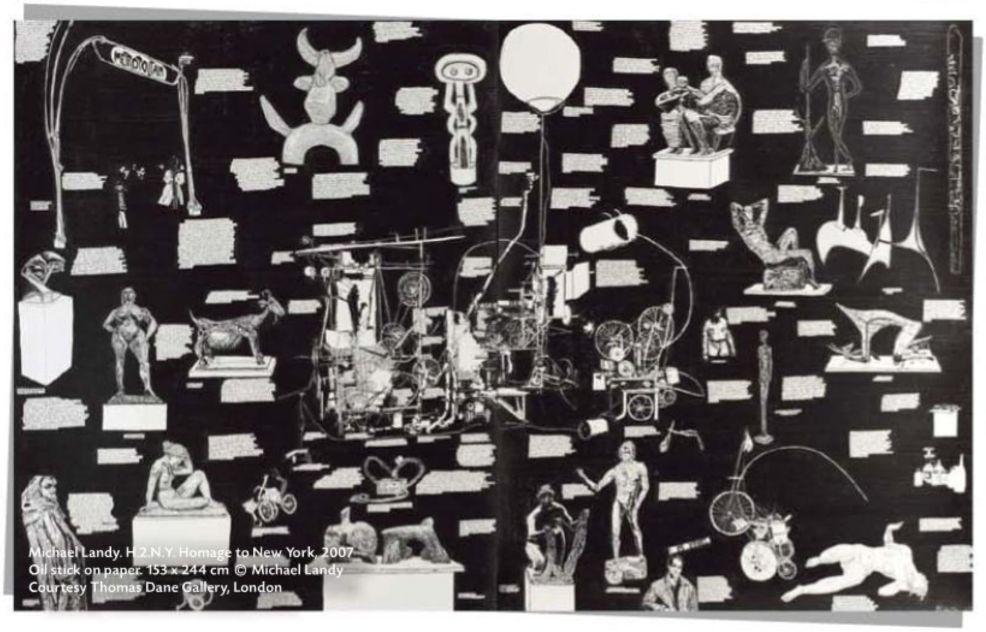
Su Blackwell, Illustrative Book of Birds
© Su Blackwell, photo Andrew Meredith



Michael Landy. H.2.N.Y. Homage to New York, 2007
Oil stick on paper. 153 x 244 cm © Michael Landy
Courtesy Thomas Dane Gallery, London

JMW Turner, 'Solway Moss', from the 'Liber Studiorum' series of mezzotints. Courtesy Museum Sheffield

JOYOUS MACHINES

MICHAEL LANDY AND JEAN TINGUELY

Tate Liverpool, Liverpool
Tel. 0151 702 7400
www.tate.org.uk/liverpool
Admission: Free
Open Tuesday to Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 10am to 5.50pm
Until 10 January 2010

This exhibition focuses on the connection between the work of Jean Tingueley (1925-1991) and renowned British artist Michael Landy. Tingueley was one of the most radical, subversive sculptors of the 20th century; Landy has been significantly influenced by Tingueley and his constructive and destructive tendencies.

As co-curator of the exhibition, Landy has paid special attention to Tingueley's early career, from the late 1940s to his *Homage to New York*, a 27ft high self-destroying mechanism designed to come to life for 27 minutes before catching fire during a performance in the Sculpture Garden of the Museum of Modern Art, New York on 17 March 1960.

Landy's comprehensive research and responses to the work, including a new documentary film and a selection of his impressive series of drawings (he has made over 160 in total), will be presented alongside photographs, films and relics of the original event.

LUSTRE

Lakeside, The University of Nottingham
Tel. 0115 846 7777
www.lakesidearts.org.uk/Crafts/Lustre
Admission: Free
Friday 6 November to Sunday 8 November

Lustre is Nottingham's most prestigious arts and crafts event and will this year take place at Lakeside, The University of Nottingham's public arts centre. Now celebrating its 10th anniversary, Lustre is the largest event of its kind outside London, attracting more than 4,000 visitors in 2008. Around 40 designers are selected from hundreds of applicants to take part in the market, selling original pieces of jewellery, textiles, ceramics, glass, wood, leather, furniture and metalwork.

Lustre attracts Christmas shoppers and serious collectors from all over the UK to see the exhibits, which this year will include jewellery makers John and Jane Moore and the Yungi range featuring 100 per cent lambswool throws, cushions and scarves.

Lustre, 2009

CAN ART SAVE US?

Millennium Gallery, Sheffield
Tel. 0114 278 2600
www.museums-sheffield.org.uk
Admission: Free
Open Mon to Sat 8am to 5pm (exhibitions from 10am)
Sunday 11am to 5pm
From 22 October to 31 January 2010

Can Art Save Us? explores the role of art in sustainability and is the first in a series of three exhibitions at Museums Sheffield which draw on the ideas and insights of critic, author, artist and scholar John Ruskin (1819-1900). Ruskin took most of his inspiration from the natural world and was arguably ahead of his time in his recognition of the environment as a finite resource. Featuring significant loans from national collections, including Tate, V&A and the National Gallery, *Can Art Save Us?* features Ruskin's ideas illustrated through a diverse range of historical and contemporary art and craft. The exhibition includes work by artists such as Joseph Wright of Derby, JMW Turner, Barbara Hepworth and Tom Hunter and considers the relevance of Ruskin's ideas in the 21st century, illustrating art's capacity to stimulate debate and, ultimately, change.

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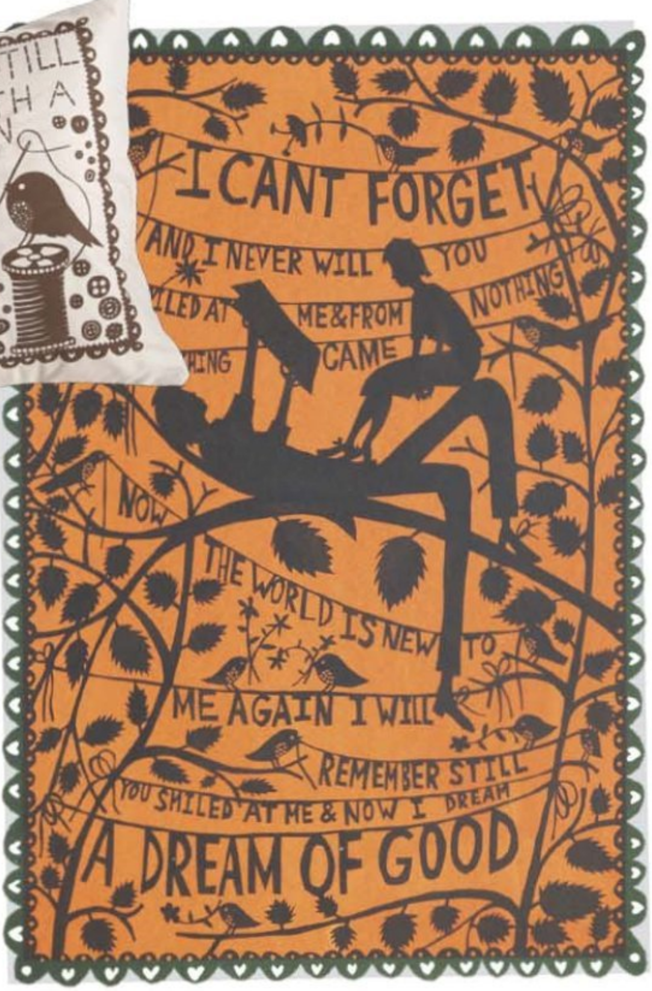
Martin Parr, Dubai, The Cartier International Dubai Polo Challenge, 2007 © Martin Parr

Edward Wiles, Bag Lamp

Rob Ryan

Martin Parr, Moscow
Moscow Fashion Week, 2004
© Martin Parr



MARTIN PARR

PARRWORLD

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead
Tel. 0191 478 1810
www.balticmill.com
Admission: Free
Open daily 10am to 6pm
Tuesdays 10.30am to 6pm
From 17 October 2009 to 10 January 2010

Parrworld will showcase the work of influential British photographer Martin Parr across two floors. The first will contain Luxury, a collection of more than 40 recent works by Parr, while the second will house more than 150 prints from some of the world's most famous and significant photographers, photographic books and a range of objects from Parr's personal collection.

Parr is known for his satirical documentation of British contemporary life; capturing a range of social demographics he offers a colourful social panorama of Britain today, unmasking the banal and the offbeat with his wry look at class and wealth. For more than 30 years, Parr has been documenting society and everyday culture initially in Britian and Ireland but later across the world, taking in global phenomena such as mass tourism, consumerism and social and cultural events.

LIVERPOOL DESIGN FESTIVAL

ECO DESIGN SHOW

The Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral
Tel. 0161 834 3722
www.liverpooldesignfestival.com
Open Friday 10am to 4pm
Saturday and Sunday 10am to 6pm
The Eco Design Show is from 30 October to 1 November
Liverpool Design Festival is from 30 October to 8 November

Liverpool Design Festival 2009 will offer the best in independent contemporary design in a varied programme taking place at the Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral over ten days. One of the highlights of the Festival is the Eco Design Show which runs from 30 October to 1 November. On display will be environmentally friendly design and crafts by up to 30 British designers, including interior products, ceramics, furniture, lighting, jewellery and fashion accessories.

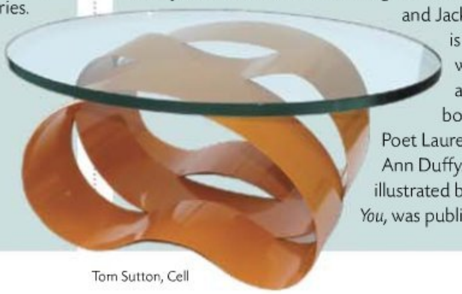
"The Eco Design Show is all about showing off the best in high-quality design to challenge the common misconceptions that exist about eco design," says Sarah Elderkin, Liverpool Design Festival director. "All our exhibitors have placed eco-design practices at the heart of their work and visitors will be amazed to see what can be recycled."

ROB RYAN

Yorkshire Sculpture Park, near Wakefield
Tel. 01924 832 631
www.ysp.co.uk
Admission: Free. Parking is £4 for the day
Open 10am to 4pm daily
From 14 November to 21 February

Artist Rob Ryan is famed for his detailed hand-cutting of delicate papers into intricate patterns which often reveal whimsical stories or poetic phrases. This November he will be decorating the 4-metre long shop window at Yorkshire Sculpture Park with a paper cut panel, and framed one-off paper cuts and limited edition screen prints will be on display throughout the centre.

Ryan has worked on a range of commissions with names such as Paul Smith, Tatty Devine, Earnest Sewn, Vogue and Elle. His creations are also on homewares sold at his East London shop, Ryantown. He has illustrated book jackets for authors including Louis De Bernieres and Jackie Kay and is currently working on a children's book with Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy. His own illustrated book, *This Is for You*, was published in 2007.



Tom Sutton, Cell

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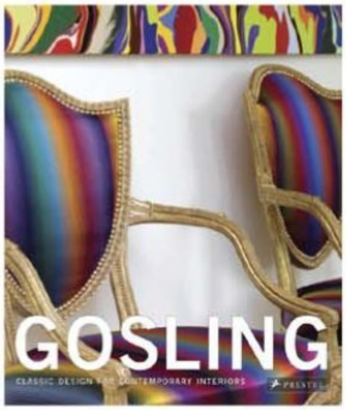
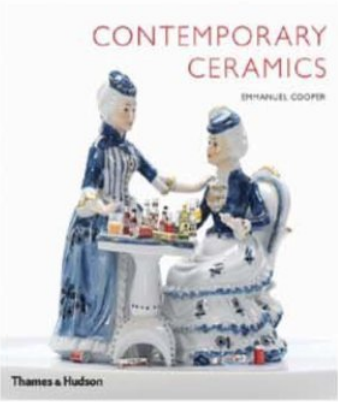
COFFEE TABLE

Be inspired by Shabby Chic interiors, discover the designs of Tim Gosling and check out some stylish recycling ideas for the home with the latest books on offer.





Remake It: Home

BY HENRIETTA THOMPSON
Published by Thames & Hudson
Available now (Nov 2)
Hardback. Price £16.95
www.thamesandhudson.com

Bursting with quirky ideas and providing endless inspiration, *Remake It: Home* by design and architecture expert Henrietta Thompson contains over 500 tips and tricks on being resourceful design-wise in your home. Divided into easy to navigate sections: furniture, storage, lighting, textiles and cleaning – the projects cover everything from how to turn antique Union Jack flags into on-trend cushions, to recycling tin cans into pretty garden lanterns.

Each of the five chapters comes with a step-by-step guide for one particular idea illustrated by Presentandcorrect.com proprietor Neal Whittington, plus dozens of design examples. *Remake It* shows you how to make the most of the things you already have in you home in the most stylish way possible.

Fusing global trends, traditional skills (such as rag rug weaving), and modern innovations and designs (like Paul Cocksedge's Styrene lamp), this book is essential for those wanting to revamp their home while saving money, and the environment, but maintaining their stylish edge.

Gosling: Classic Design For Contemporary Interiors

BY STEPHEN CALLOWAY, JEAN GOMM AND JURGEN HUBER
Published by Prestel
Available now (Nov 2)
Hardback. Price £45
www.prestel.com

Described on its inner sleeve as a 'lavish' book, lavish *Gosling* certainly is; it's big, bright, glossy and alluring. Subtitled 'Classic design for contemporary interiors' this beautifully photographed hardback illustrates the designs of Tim Gosling in a variety of settings which they grace: from city apartments through country homes, yachts and offices to hotels.

Chapter titles are as varied as the locations: 'The Classical Tradition' which explores Egypt, Greece and Rome as inspirations; 'Space, Scale and Light' which draws on Gosling's Italianate influences and 'The Art Of Technology' which discusses design conscious ways to integrate technology in our homes. Both the text (Stephen Calloway, Jean Gomm, Tim Gosling and Jürgen Huber have all contributed) and photography (by Ray Main) project the Gosling ethos: detail, quality, history.

In addition the book guides you through Gosling's signature design concepts, details the design process and reviews the quality materials that add to the timeless appeal of a Gosling piece.

Shabby Chic Interiors

BY RACHEL ASHWELL
Published by Cico Books
Available now (Oct)
Hardback. Price: £25
www.cicobooks.co.uk

Founder of influential American-based brand Shabby Chic, which cherishes vintage style and flea-market finds, Rachel Ashwell takes us on a tour of her home in this pretty hardback. The first part of *Shabby Chic Interiors: My Rooms, Treasures And Trinkets* details how Rachel's life has impacted her designs, with the author guiding you through treasured items that she's collected and how she came to create the home she now lives in.

Later chapters take you to a selection of diverse and inspiring US homes, including a chapel-like Hollywood home once occupied by Marilyn Monroe and the New York City apartment of cool fashion designer Betsey Johnson.

An ideal purchase for those with a serene, comfortable, vintage mindset, and full of tips on how to achieve the looks showcased in the book in your home: such as finding chic lighting on eBay or at flea markets, and how to perfect the tricky task of creating the vintage wallpaper look.

Contemporary Ceramics

BY EMMANUEL COOPER
Published by Thames & Hudson
Available now (Oct 5)
Hardback. Price £24.95
www.thamesandhudson.com

If you like the idea of having an instant visual reference to the latest global trends and traditions in ceramics at your fingertips, then Professor in Ceramics and Glass at the Royal College of Art Emmanuel Cooper's latest book is just the ticket for you. Featuring over 600 ceramic pieces illustrated in colour, *Contemporary Ceramics* analyses ceramic work from around the world from the last ten years.

Divided into five chapters the book addresses every aspect of contemporary ceramic practice and showcases work of all scales – from thimble size to large-scale installations. Check out tea sets, slip-cast forms, sculptures and site-specific installations to name but a few. While the final chapter looks at new creative possibilities thanks to changes in the market and technological advances.

Contemporary Ceramics also includes biography information for over 350 of the world's best ceramists, making it an ideal guide to this realm of art as well as a perfect pick-me-up for your coffee table.

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ECO-FRIENDLY PRODUCTS

FURNITURE FANCIES

This month we bring you the latest eco-friendly furniture for the home. These statement pieces will not only bring style into the home but also carry the benefits of being environmentally friendly.

ECO BEAUTY

Available online from Natural Collection, this timeless classic is made from 100% Sheesham wood and is the ideal piece to bring a touch of character to any room. Perfect for storage and priced at £424, the sideboard is imported directly from Northern India. **Tel. 0845 367 7001 or log onto: www.naturalcollection.com today.**

LUXURIOUS LIVING

The 'Infinity Squared' table is made using managed forest and FSC certified timber. The designer works predominantly in wood, and is guided by a traditional upbringing, in which responsible management and conservation of Britain's native wildlife and habitats featured strongly. Available from Gecco Interiors and priced at £2,185. **Log onto: www.geccointeriors.co.uk or tel. 01494 565 459 for further information.**

CONTEMPORARY SEATING

The 'Reee' chair is made from 100% recycled plastic games console casings. All the plastic parts are 100% recyclable and the modular assembly means that the chair is also efficient to repair and refurbish. Priced at £110. **Visit www.plidesign.co.uk to find a variety of essential eco buys.**

SLEEP WELL

The latest eco-friendly design from Indigo Furniture, the 'Morphius' bed, oozes style and sophistication and would make the perfect centrepiece for your home. Fashioned using solid reclaimed beams from old mills, this reclaimed bed is handmade from different size and shape beams. Prices start from £1,990. **Visit: www.indigofurniture.co.uk or tel. 01629 581 800 to locate your nearest stockist.**

FINE DINING

Fashioned from discarded cable reels and reclaimed timbers, Reel Furniture introduces a range of recycled tables. The conservatory table, priced at £235, features self-assembly legs that allows for adjustment and is finished using an eco-friendly water-based lacquer. **Visit: www.reelfurniture.co.uk and buy yours today.**

CLAUDIA CASHIN

DESIGNER PROFILE

Having graduated from Manchester Metropolitan University in 2008 with a BA Hons in Textiles, Claudia recently opened her own studio where she now works on her art. As a talented textile artist, Claudia has always had a great passion for texture and colour.

Her unique pieces are created using a combination of drawing, mixed media layering, collage screen and digital printing, which she translates onto products such as lampshades, cushions and wallpapers, as well as canvas. Currently Claudia is working on a collection called 'Urban Decay' which features a mixture of colour palettes expressing her unique take on urban decay in Manchester. The collection is a combination of hand and digital printing in which Claudia brings the outdoors in and explores her appreciation for the beauty of nature. Her plans for the future are to continue developing her art whilst also exhibiting at prestigious shows such as 100% Design.

Q&A

What is your most treasured possession?
Well I would say my cats but I don't like to think of them as possessions, they are part of my family. So I would have to say my tatty old security blanket 'Aka' the sheet.

How do you relax?
With a cup of tea sat curled up watching *Sex And The City*, as I believe it answers most of life's questions.

Where is your favourite destination?
Home, I'm a real home bird and love coming home from a day at the studio when it's cold outside and warm and cosy inside.

What is your guilty pleasure?
Shopping. I love buying clothes and new stationary from pencils to paintbrushes it never ends.

Do you have a motto?
Never settle for – 'it will do' – that's what my dad always says to me when I am stressed out with work.

Describe yourself in five words?
Creative, chatty, opinionated, hard working and funny.

What inspires you?
I take inspiration from all aspects of my life and surroundings from people to places.

Who are your design heroes?
Norma Starszakowna, Jackson Pollock, Bansky, Tracey Kendal, Deborah Bowness, Wassily Kandinsky and Mark Rothko to name but a few.

What are your current projects?
My exhibition 'One Year On' is running in London and I am expanding my current collection 'Urban Decay'.

Can you describe your work?
Stylish, contemporary with function and form.

What is your favourite piece of work so far?
A large digitally printed urban panel.

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LARGER THAN LIFE

When Angela Smyth took a break from working in a shop in order to start a family, she rediscovered her childhood passion for drawing. Little did she know that a few years later, she would be a full-time artist with an international following.

Words **Jennie Musgrove** Photograph of artist **Eleri Griffiths**

Angela Smyth's artwork is bold, fun and just a little bit naughty. Painted cats, dogs and birds are given cheeky and mischievous personalities through their thought-bubbles and expressions, but it's the larger-than-life people Angela paints who are most often telling a story. Working from her studio above a coffee shop in Sowerby Bridge, Yorkshire, Angela doesn't have to look far to find inspiration for the characters she creates. "Sowerby Bridge is the only place I've ever seen where on a Friday or Saturday night, women wear sequins," she says. "We have a lot of hairdressers, tanning salons and nail salons, and they're all packed on a Friday night. You can walk around the town and see women in really high heels and outfits with sequins, flowers, beautiful corsages; it's so old-fashioned. But that's why I love it. It's so wonderful to see these women going out and being who they are."

For the past three years, Angela has been working full-time as an artist. It all started when her seven-year-old son Alistair was born and she decided to give up work for a while. Having drawn animals since her childhood, Angela started experimenting with painting and it wasn't long before she had produced several canvases. Her husband Chris took a painting to the local printers to be scanned. "We were just going to see if we could do something with it," says Angela. "The lady who owns the coffee shop at the other end of Sowerby Bridge saw the painting and said she wouldn't mind having it in her shop. So I made 10 for her and she sold them in a week and kept asking for more."

From this initial chance encounter, Angela has gone from strength to strength, forging links with galleries across the UK and being invited to join The Art Group, which publishers her work as canvases, paper prints and cards sold in more than 30 countries worldwide. She also works closely with the Alexander Gallery in Bristol which publishes the work of the late internationally-renowned

"YOU CAN WALK AROUND THE TOWN AND SEE WOMEN IN REALLY HIGH HEELS AND OUTFITS WITH SEQUINS, FLOWERS, BEAUTIFUL CORSAGES; IT'S SO OLD-FASHIONED. BUT THAT'S WHY I LOVE IT"

ANGELA HAS BEEN SHORTLISTED FOR *RED* MAGAZINE'S 'RED'S HOT WOMEN AWARDS 2009 – **GOOD LUCK FROM ALL AT *CFL*!**

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The Town Tradition

Love Comes Home

"MY DAD HAD A REALLY STRANGE WAY OF DRAWING, AND WOULD ALWAYS DRAW HIS FAVOURITE ANIMAL, THE SHIRE HORSE. HE TAUGHT ME HOW TO DRAW THEM AND THAT'S HOW IT ALL STARTED."

artist Beryl Cook. People who buy Angela's cards and prints contact her from far-flung destinations such as America, Japan and France to tell her how much they enjoy them. "It's lovely and I always get a massive high from that," she says. "It just makes my day."

The youngest child of an Irish family, Angela's passion for drawing was passed on to her by her late father Patrick, who taught her to draw shire horses. "We didn't have much paper in the house so my dad would draw on beer mats when we went to The Irish Club on a Saturday," she says. "He had a really strange way of drawing, and would always draw his favourite animal, the shire horse. He taught me how to draw them and that's how it all started." Angela has never studied art, yet her self-taught style is quirky, accomplished and full of intelligent observations. "I like to figure things out for myself, and learn new techniques," she says. "I like to muck about really!"

Angela's early work depicted dogs, cats and flowers. She knew, however, that to progress she would have to learn how to draw people. Out of her comfort zone but determined to succeed, Angela taught herself to draw the stylised faces that have become signature in her work. "The only reason I do hearts for mouths is because I can't draw mouths," she says. "But what a lovely symbol for a mouth. It's become something that I do now because it's the only way I can do it."

People of all ages feature in Angela's work, but three young women often appear time and again in various situations. Blonde-haired Faith, brunette Hope and redheaded Gloria get into all kinds of scandalous trouble, as Angela explains: "I'm a pretty shy person actually, and I often don't see many people during the day. So these three characters are kind of my alter ego; I let them hang from a chandelier or dance on a table. It lifts my spirits, and if I'm having a bad day one of them will do something particularly naughty!"

As mischievous as Angela's characters can be, her paintings are invariably light-hearted and uplifting. A strong sense of compassion deters Angela from depicting the darker side of life, but every now and then negative experiences can spill over into her paintings of animals. "The people I paint are always happy and positive," she says. "It sounds mad but that's where the animals come in; when I have a serious point to put across, I always paint animals. The dogs, cats and birds usually have hidden stories or meaning to them."

As for the future, Angela has a few ideas for new paintings and is content to keep creating beautiful images reflecting the people and things she sees in her day-to-day life. "Now that I'm doing this every day I can't imagine not painting," she says. "I don't want to be massive, I'm just really happy. And if it stops tomorrow I'll be glad that I've had a shot."

If you'd like to see more of Angela's work, visit the Hawthorn Gallery, Stalybridge, which has a permanent collection of her paintings.
www.thehawthornegallery.com
A month-long exhibition of Angela's most recent work will be on display at the Alexander Gallery, Bristol, from 3rd December 2009.
www.alexander-gallery.co.uk

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VIEW

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This month we bring you the best homes in Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire and Lancashire, and reveal that the Spanish property market is back on its feet.

BECK BITES BACK

A collection of family homes in Nottinghamshire remains popular in this difficult market.

Visitor numbers are on the increase at Beck Homes's Acrefields development in Selston, Nottinghamshire, which currently comprises four three-storey semi-detached homes and one large five-bedroom detached house. The success of the homes follows encouraging news from the Council of Mortgage Lenders that gross mortgage lending in July was 26 per cent higher than in June this year.

Homes at Acrefields certainly get the seal of approval from local resident Marion Coakley, whose family previously owned the land on which they are built. "We are very happy with the homes that Beck Homes has built here," she says. "They are of a very high standard and certainly fit in with the character of the area. Our family had four homes here and obviously we have an emotional attachment to the land and this area."

The new homes offer an ideal opportunity for young families or those looking for more space for a larger family. The show home has recently been completed and is open for viewings and the developer is offering sales incentives including five per cent deposit paid, shared equity and part exchange.

The homes comprise entrance hall with cloakroom/wc, lounge with patio doors to the garden and kitchen/dining room on the ground floor. Two bedrooms and a family bathroom are on the first floor with a further bedroom and en-suite on the second floor. The houses have double-glazed Georgian-style windows and externally there are gardens and off-road car parking.

Selston has easy access to the M1 motorway and is strategically located between Mansfield, Chesterfield, Derby and Nottingham, while Sheffield is 30 miles up the M1. Prices start at £129,950.

For further information on Acrefields contact the selling agents Freckleton Brown on 01773 769751 or Beck Homes on 0844 335 0824 or email: info@beckhomes.co.uk.

€5M SALES IN SPAIN

Quality homes in south-east Spain are still very much in demand, as shown by recent sales figures from a Cheltenham-based developer.

Brand new properties with a combined worth of almost €5m have been sold in the Almeria region of south-east Spain in the past three months by the Cheltenham-based Almanzora Group.

The achievement, described by the company as a turning point in recent market conditions, comprises sales of 12 properties – a mix of individual villas, beach houses and cottages – at Desert Springs, Europe's only international award-winning luxury family resort and championship desert golf course, in the traditional fishing village Villaricos and at nearby Playa Marques where a three-bedroom, two-bathroom beach house on its seven kilometre long Great Sandy Beach sold for €575,000.

The developer's total sales over the past three months are worth €4,937,500. "Over the years, the property market in Spain has proved to be extremely cyclical, much more so than it is in the UK. This recent market activity suggests that the wheel is turning again," says Amanzora Group's sales and marketing manager, Simon Coaker. "Prices have been at their lowest for six years but are bound to start rising again if sales of such properties continue at this level. No matter how great the oversupply of poor quality, mass built apartments, in secondary locations around the old tourism centres, the actual supply of good quality individual properties in relatively new, less developed locations – which are the future of residential tourism in Spain – remain in short supply.

"Although setbacks occur in any economy, the overall market in Spain and in its coastal provinces will recover in due course to even greater values, undreamed-of at the height of the previous boom."

For more information about the properties available call the Almanzora Group on 01242 680299, email: tag@almanzora.co.uk or visit: www.almanzora.com.

HOMES WITH A VIEW

Family homes in Staffordshire offer lovely views in a semi-rural location.

A new David Wilson Homes development in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Burgess Brook is located alongside open fields which offer fantastic views for many of the homes overlooking the surrounding countryside.

"Homebuyers wanting to lead a stress-free lifestyle will love Burgess Brook," says Carole Ashworth, sales manager for David Wilson Mercia. "The development is ideally located just a few minutes drive from Newcastle-under-Lyme town centre, but with the rolling countryside surrounding the homes, it offers peace and tranquillity to residents."

Burgess Brook comprises a selection of two-bedroom apartments and three- and four-bedroom houses. As an added incentive to buy, David Wilson is offering a part-exchange scheme.

"Those who choose to take advantage of our part-exchange scheme will be able to enjoy a quick and easy move as we take care of all the selling costs such as estate agent fees and the Home Information Pack (HIP). Plus, as we are effectively a cash buyer, purchasers won't have to worry about any annoying house chains," says Carole. "Homes like these in a location as good as this are highly sought after and with only a limited number of homes with views over the open fields remaining, anyone interested in living here should not hesitate to register their interest."

Two-bedroom apartments with allocated parking are priced at £97,950. The three- and four-bedroom houses are priced from £174,950. For more information contact the sales office on 01782 628 439 or visit: www.dwh.co.uk/burgessbrook.

SHOW HOME FOR SALE

A stylish show home in Lancashire which has been professionally interior designed is now on the market.

Developer Redrow Homes is selling its Chorley 'Hayward' property, a three-bedroom home ideal for a family. The house comes fully furnished with a carefully chosen, colour-coordinated décor, wall coverings, flooring and carpets throughout, window dressings, fitted wardrobes, light fittings, alarm system and landscaped gardens. It also has plenty of upgraded features including bathroom cabinets and fully-integrated appliances in the kitchen.

"Buying a show home traditionally appeals to buyers who want a property that is completely ready to move into," says Lesley Myers, area sales manager for Redrow Homes (Lancashire). "There is no mulling over paint charts, deliberating over carpet swatches or even forking out extra cash on the garden; all this is already done so buyers can move in and immediately start to enjoy their new surroundings. Not only does the Hayward offer a generous amount of space, it has a lovely interior which includes a delectable colour palette of cream and splashes of colour including gentle green and soft pink. It's no surprise it has proved so popular with visitors to the development."

The ground floor features a spacious kitchen with dining area and a separate lounge, whilst the top floor holds three bedrooms, with the master bedroom having an en-suite, and a separate family bathroom.

The Hayward has been used as a shop window for the three-bedroom homes currently available at Hallwood Gardens, a development which has scenic woodland surroundings yet is within walking distance of Chorley town centre.

For those who prefer to add their own touch, there are other three-bedroom Hayward properties available, priced from £174,995, as well as a number of two-bedroom apartments at £99,995.

Hallwood Gardens at Gillibrands Park comprises one- and two-bedroom apartments and two-, three- and four-bedroom homes within the grounds of the historic Grade II-listed Gillibrands Hall.

To view the show home, priced at £179,995, visit the development, off Yarrow Valley Way, or call 01257 275139. Alternatively visit: www.redrow.co.uk/developments/view/148.

NEXT ISSUE

ON SALE 18 NOV

PLUS: AN INTERVIEW WITH DESIGN GURU WILLIAM YEOWARD

THIS SEASON'S STYLISH BED LINEN CHECK OUT THE LATEST SHUTTERS AND BLINDS

INSPIRATIONAL HOMES AND GARDENS

NORTH WALES FOCUS

With its dramatic mountains and beautiful coastline, North Wales is one of the most scenic places to live in the UK. This month we headed for the hills to discover the best Welsh properties on offer – from homes in a conservation area to apartments with a sea view.

RURAL FLINTSHIRE HOMES

Luxury homes in a conservation area offer the best of both worlds in terms of town and country.

New house builder, Elan Homes, is celebrating the success of its development in Pen-y-ffordd, Flintshire, by launching phase two six months earlier than planned. In an elevated position overlooking the village, Meadowslea is a collection of four- and five-bedroom detached homes with rural views that stretch for miles. The properties are just ten minutes from Chester and half an hour from the North Wales coast.

"Meadowslea has been so successful since its launch that expectations are high for phase two", says Marie Wilkinson, sales director at Elan Homes. "Each style of home has its own personality but they are all extremely spacious with fantastic living areas that include high-specification kitchens and bathrooms, incorporating the very latest in fixtures, fittings and gadgets. Families in particular are seeing the huge benefits of living here – especially when they see the generous outdoor spaces that are available."

The Chichester is a four-bedroom, three-storey detached home featuring a large living room, patio doors to the garden, separate dining room, contemporary kitchen and utility room. It also has a master bedroom-suite, with additional dressing area and en-suite.

The homes are situated within a conservation area, and when Elan Homes purchased the former hospital, there were bats nesting in the roof. As bats are a protected species, the developer built a purpose-built bat house within the development.

The Chichester is priced at £319,995. Visit: www.elan-homes.co.uk or call 0845 481 8801 to find out more.

Find

FAMILY HOMES NEAR CHESTER

A collection of properties in Flintshire is ideal for growing families.

Just a few homes remain on the market at Antler Homes development High Grove in the village of Saughall, Flintshire. The four-bedroom properties are ideal for families and offer spacious accommodation and modern fittings.

The showhome is furnished with carpets, curtains and light fittings. The ground floor comprises of a kitchen /breakfast room, and a separate dining room and living room as well as an integral garage. The kitchen is finished to a high standard with stainless steel Siemens oven and integrated fridge freezer and dishwasher. Upstairs, the master bedroom has its own en-suite bathroom fitted wardrobe and the remaining three bedrooms share a designer family bathroom, finished in classic white sanitaryware and fitted with chrome fittings.

Saughall is four miles from the historic city of Chester. Prices start at £299,950. To find out more visit: www.antlerhomes.co.uk or call 01244 881 261.

GET IT WHILE YOU CAN

Escape the rat race and snap up the last remaining rural retreat in Pantymwyn.

Cedar House is the only remaining home on an exclusive small development in the popular village of Pantymwyn, overlooking the stunning Clwydian Hills.

Constructed by respected Cheshire-based house builder, CB Homes, this large detached family home has been completed to the highest specification and offers ample living accommodation including three reception rooms, study, five bedrooms and two en-suites. It comes complete with quality flooring and carpets, built-in wardrobes, top of the range sanitary ware, fitted kitchen and American fridge/freezer. The house is set within a large private garden and is perfectly placed for those commuting to Chester, Liverpool or Manchester.

Pantymwyn itself is a charming Welsh village, which boasts an 18-hole uplands golf club, lovely countryside pubs and beautiful hill walks. Just four miles away is the market town of Mold offering modern shops, restaurants, a twice-weekly open market and a variety of schools. While the surrounding area has plenty of opportunities for recreational pursuits such as hiking or mountain biking in the Clwydian Hills and walking along the stunning beaches of North Wales.

Cedar House is priced at £399,950. Visit: cbhomes.co.uk or tel. 01829 760066. Alternatively contact Strutt and Parker on 01244 354 888.

CLIFF TOP LIVING

Only four apartments remain for sale at a Colwyn Bay development.

An apartment building in the seaside resort of Colwyn Bay has proved popular with locals and holiday-home buyers, with only four properties left. They include one-bedroom apartments and two-bedroom duplexes with beautiful views over the Irish Sea.

"Buyers who want to own their own waterside apartment will need to be quick before the remaining apartments sell out," said Michaela Lancaster, sales director for Gladedale. "We have sold eight apartments at Cliff Tops in the last 12 months showing smart purchasers have been taking advantage of the fantastic deals available at the development. This will be the last chance to purchase a brand new apartment at Cliff Tops and we urge interested buyers to visit the show apartment. The fantastic coastal location of these apartments has proved to be a great selling factor at Cliff Tops and we expect the remaining four to sell quickly."

The final few apartments at Cliff Tops are available with Gladedale's shared purchase scheme, meaning that buyers can pay just £87,713 for a one-bedroom apartment. The developer is also offering part exchange plus mortgage protection on selected properties at the waterside development.

With shared purchase, buyers own 100% of their new property backed by a 25% interest-free loan from the developer for up to ten years. The scheme can even make it easier to secure a mortgage as buyers are not required to put down a deposit.

Prices start at £116,950 for a one-bedroom apartment. Visit www.gladedale.com or call 01492 518 175.

Photography Eleri Griffiths

AN ARCHITECT'S VIEW: DECO DELIGHT

Curving gracefully along the North West coast the Midland is a hotel with history. Hailed as a modernist masterpiece this sleek and unique structure lay neglected for years before being lovingly restored to its former glory. Kevin Drayton takes a look at this renowned Art-Deco classic.

I'm fascinated by 1920s and 30s Britain. It was a period when architecture and the decorative arts experienced a surge of creativity and the style we know as Art Deco was born. If you have seen them, the opening and closing title sequences of the *Jeeves and Wooster* television series, with Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie, sum up the seductions of the period for me.

This month's subject combines 1930s Art Deco with two other great British obsessions of the time: railways and the seaside. It also allows us to look at the very different scales on which architects work, from the details of a building to the relationship between a single structure and the environment in which it sits. This month we look at one of the grand old troupers of the North of England: the Midland Hotel, Morecambe.

The Midland Hotel we visit today is directly and intimately connected to the building that opened in 1933 on the site of an even earlier incarnation, local architect Edward Paley's 1848 hotel. That first hotel, built by the local railway company to cater for the growing number of visitors arriving by train to the former fishing village, was eventually demolished to make way for something much more ambitious. At the time, the new Midland was the epitome of luxury and modernism, the equal if not the superior of any other hotel in the world. I can feel myself lapsing into a television commercial: "This wasn't just any hotel; this was the Oliver Hill designed, Eric Gill decorated masterpiece that drew everyone from Edward and Mrs Simpson to Noel Coward and Winston Churchill through its doors."

It is hard to grasp just how visionary a move this was for the London, Midland and Scottish (LMS) railway company that commissioned the scheme. Morecambe had been growing in size and popularity as a holiday venue for some time and

'The Midland is now a Grade 2* listed building, and the essence of the original building is clear to see: the modernist curves, the circular bar, Eric Gill's original ceiling medallion high above you'

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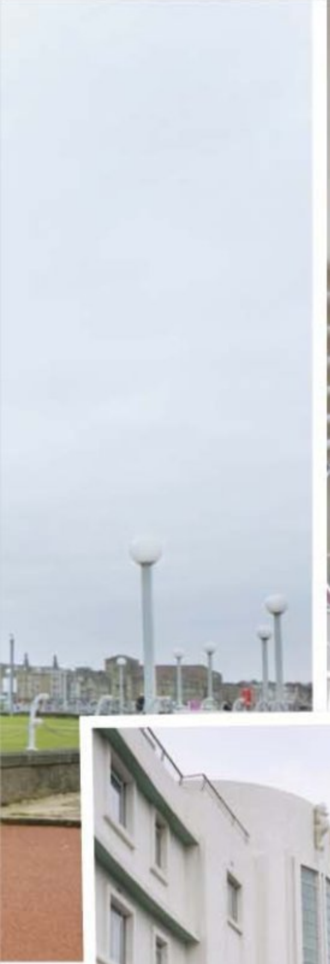

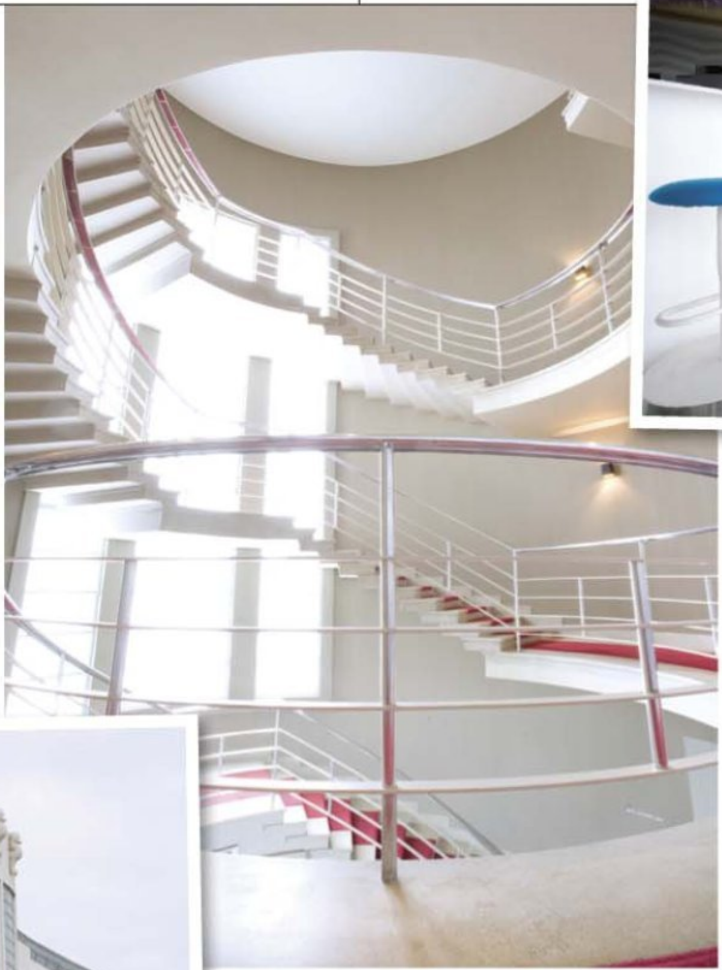

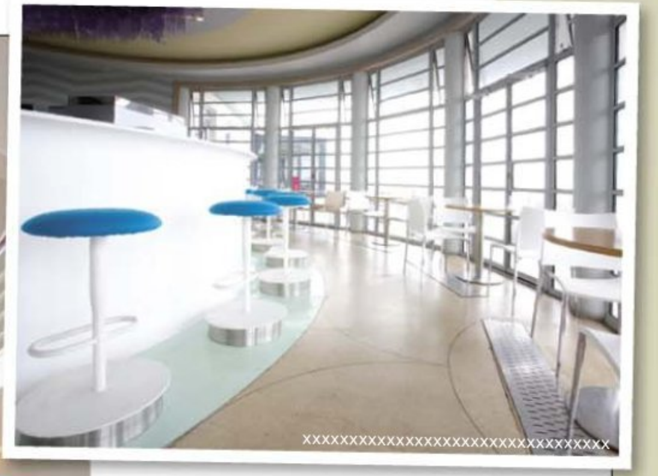

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undoubtedly warranted a new upmarket focal-point. But Oliver Hill's vision didn't just rival the Brightons and Eastbournes of this world, it catapulted Morecambe into the stratosphere alongside the likes of Monte Carlo.

Morecambe Bay is a fine sight to behold and the Midland took the prime viewing position on the promenade, arranging itself in a long, horizontal curve with its convex side facing the sea. It was white and will have sparkled in the sunshine, thanks to Oliver Hill's cunning use of polished carborundum in the render. It will have been totally unlike any other building in much of Britain, let alone Morecambe. And considering that Oliver Hill was given free reign to design every last aspect of the place, including the furniture, the décor and even the colour of the towels, it must have been amazing. The flat roof (how daring!) was a sundeck, would you believe.

The Midland sparkled for just six years before the little man with the pencil moustache brought its glittering youth to an end, just as he did for so many others. During the war, the building was requisitioned as a military hospital, and although in 1948 it eventually re-opened as an hotel, it never really flourished again. A succession of new owners failed to bring back the glamour and by the 1960s, no-one was really aware of the Midland at all. The once great edifice had degenerated into a sad embarrassment. It must have come close to being demolished before a saviour, in the shape of Manchester-based developers Urban Splash, bought the building in 2003 and embarked on an ambitious restoration scheme. It re-opened in June 2008 and day-to-day management was taken over by English Lakes Hotels Ltd in May 2009.

So what do we see today if we visit the Midland? It is clearly recognisable as the building in the old photographs. You cannot miss the white concave entrance façade facing the railway station across the car park. The back door (or is it the front door?) is clearly signalled by the central vertical element in the predominantly horizontal elevation. This vertical element corresponds to the beautiful spiral staircase within, and the staircase explains why the entrance door is so surprisingly low: it had to be squeezed underneath a half landing in the stair.

No matter, push on into the entrance hall and the real joy of the rejuvenated hotel becomes clear. A view of Morecambe Bay greets you through the glazed rear wall (or is it the front wall?) but your attention is quickly drawn back to the interior. This is how to keep the best of the old whilst giving it new and very elegant life. The Midland is now a Grade 2* listed building, and the essence of the original building is clear to see: the modernist curves, the circular bar, Eric Gill's original ceiling medallion high above you as you gaze up from the foot of the staircase.

'At the time, the new Midland was the epitome of luxury and modernism, the equal if not the superior of any other hotel in the world'

But a very sure hand has given the interior a thoroughly modern makeover that sticks closely to the spirit of Art Deco without resorting to pastiche. It is by no means faultless (try taking tea in the glazed conservatory facing the bay on a bright day without your sunglasses and you'll see what I mean) but I want to applaud this for effort. Another Eric Gill piece, his gorgeous bas-relief panel, sits proudly (and in beautiful condition) behind the reception desk, looking perfectly at home. It was a wrench to leave and venture onto the promenade to examine the building from the bay.

I recommend a walk along the Stone Jetty immediately in front of the hotel. The jetty itself is worth study and from the far end you can look back at the sleek hull of this ocean liner of an hotel and see what an impact it must have made when first built. Unfortunately you also get to see the wider backdrop of Morecambe within which the Midland sits. To the left there is the newish and not unhappy Lifeboat Station in what I will call 'making-an-effort modern'. But to the right of the hotel, the Morecambe Superbowl building shows just what we can achieve nowadays with little imagination and even less ambition.

In recent years there have been numerous examples of icon buildings and 'starchitecture' used to provide a high profile focal point for the regeneration of an area. The Bilbao Guggenheim in the Basque region of Spain by the American architect Frank Gehry is one of the most celebrated examples.

The Midland is good but it alone cannot carry Morecambe. It must be the catalyst for a wider regeneration if the town (and the hotel itself for that matter) is to flourish. Will that happen? There are few signs at the moment, but one never knows. What I would say is, if you haven't visited the Midland yet, perhaps it would be wise not to leave it too long before you do so.

Kevin is partner at One17 Design. Visit: www.one17design.com to find out more about his work.

You will find the Midland Hotel at Marine Road, West Morecambe, Lancashire LA4 4BU. Tel. 01524 424000 or visit: www.elh.co.uk.

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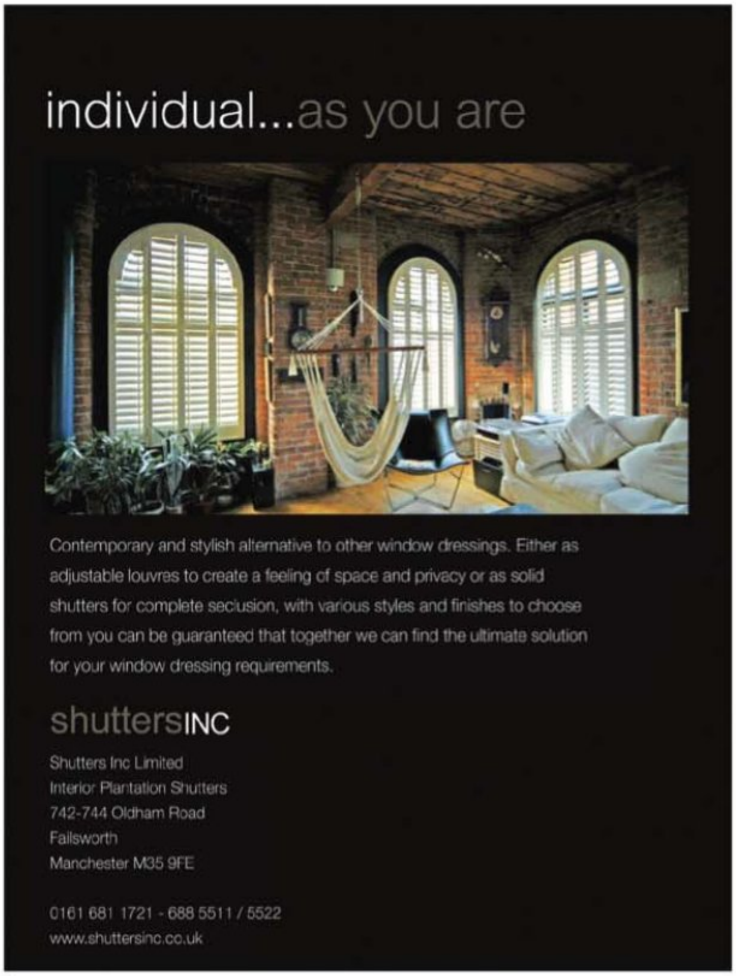
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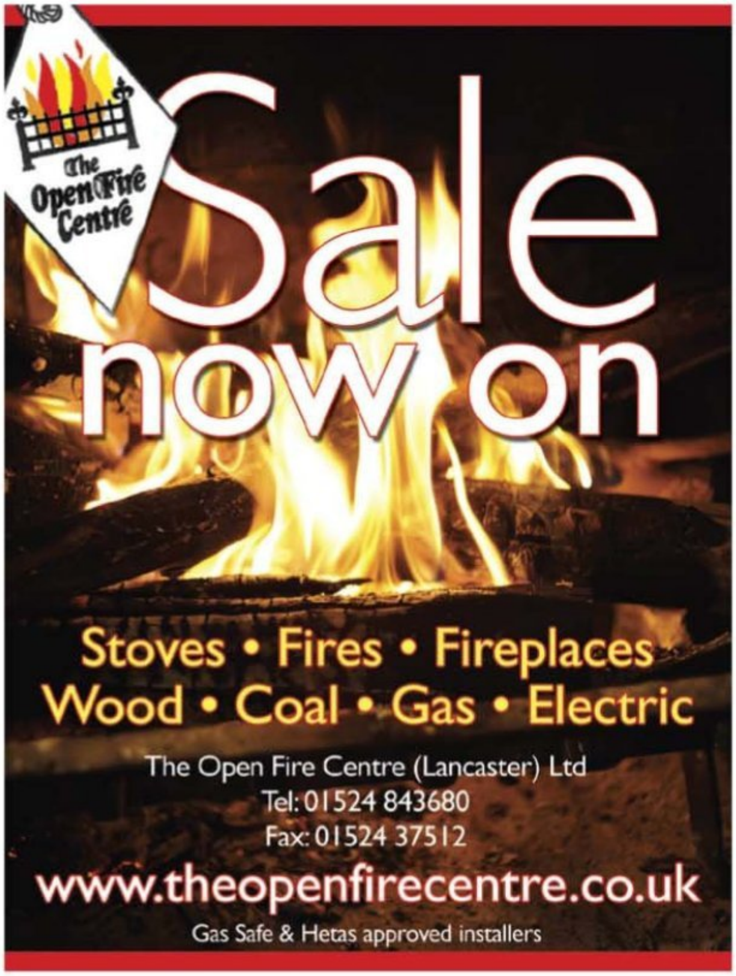
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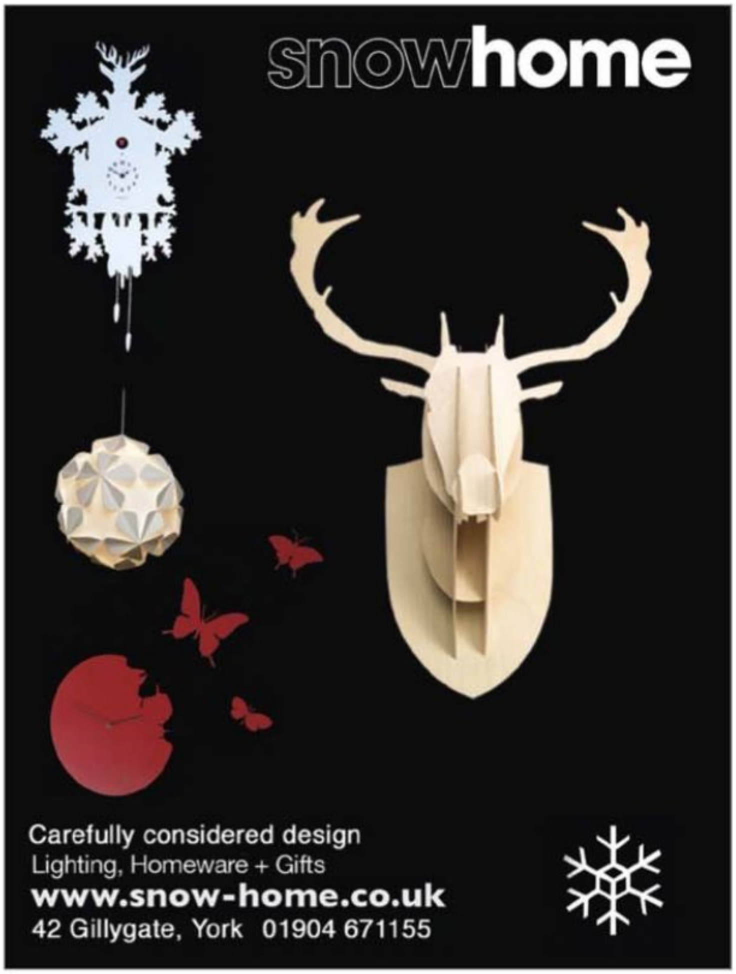
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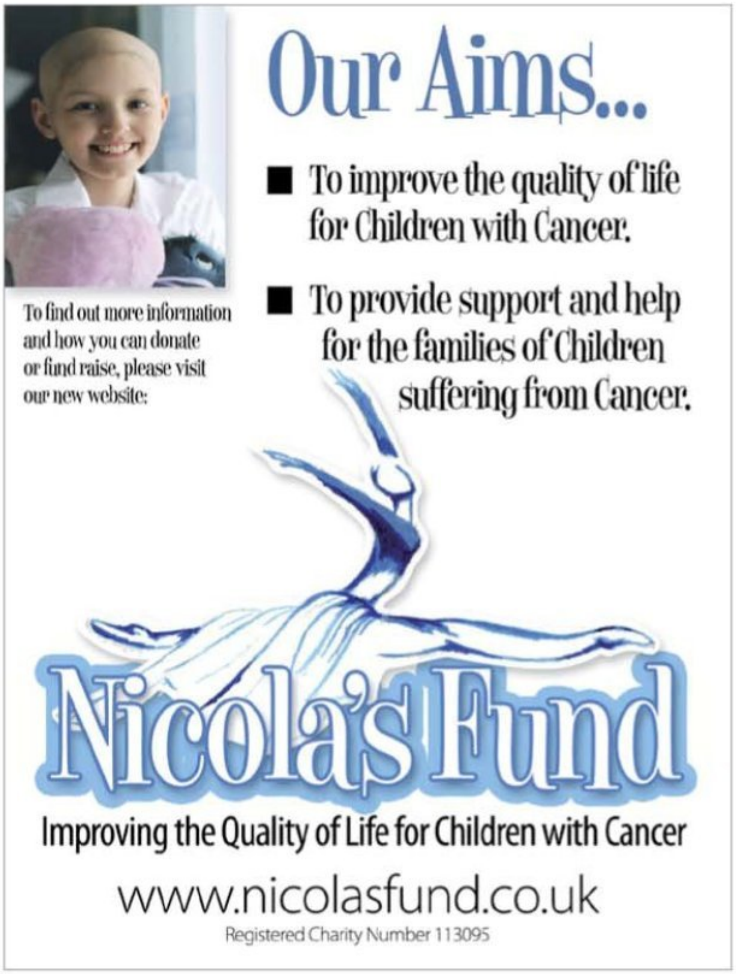
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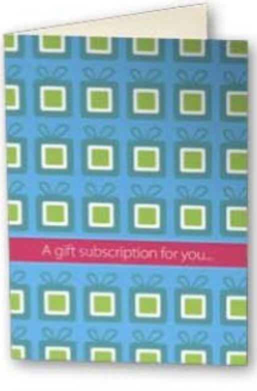

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